

# The Scott Family Gazette

Merry Christmas all!

First off.... No! The post office did not lose your copy of the Gazette in the winter of 2017. We must apologize. 2017 was such a busy year that we simply never got the Gazette sent out.

When last I wrote it was the Christmas holidays, **2016!**

As 2018 has continued to be a busy year, I'll give you a quick update on our current state and then use this letter to tell of highlights for both the 2017 and 2018 years.

Glen continues to work as a software developer here in Richmond for a company called Change Healthcare. Susan works part time (3 days a week) in office administration at an import company called Calkins and Burke. Kayla is currently in grade 6, and Melissa is in grade 4. The girls have 2 fish (Starflight and Sunny) and 1 frog (Clay).

As indicated in the 2016 letter, we did go for a successful ski trip in March of 2017 with our friends Jen and Zac and family to Big White, just outside of Kelowna.

As 2017 started, both girls took ski lessons at the local Mt. Seymour ski hill. Both girls also took part in a Girl Guides troop up at Simon Fraser University. In the spring Kayla took part in a school based program called Odyssey of the Mind, that saw her working after school and weekends with some school classmates to solve some crafty problems (sort of a cross between Reach for the Top and an Engineering Robotics Challenge and Theater Sports – that's the best quick explanation I can give). Both Kayla and Melissa took swimming



Scott family with Santa, December 2018

lessons, continued piano lessons, Melissa took art lessons, Kayla took dance lessons--a style called Acro, a quick description would be a cross between Jazz and Cheerleading, and Melissa started playing soccer--inspired no doubt by her cousins who all have had "successful" soccer careers while growing up. Kayla took part in track and field,

representing her school in running at district competitions a few times through the spring.

As a trial--but not staying with it, both Kayla and Melissa tried out Ringette, and Melissa specifically tried out synchronized swimming.

Kayla and Melissa also went to a few sleepovers at a friend's.

Susan's cousin Doris, and a few of her friends, all from New York, stayed with us for a few days around their skiing trip to Whistler-Blackcomb.



Exploring Cody Caves. Summer 2017

As we turned to summer (of 2017), both girls went to Girl Guides camp at Camp Olave on the Sunshine Coast. We went to our cabin at the Shuswap a number of weekends. We did a favorite of ours, camping with friends at Alice Lake (just outside of Squamish), for a long weekend in late July. Both girls went to (day) summer camp at the local (Bill Copeland) Arena. On days that Susan had off (as mentioned, she works part time) Susan and the girls took advantage of their "Kid's World" membership which allowed them "free" admissions to many interesting attractions around the lower mainland. We

took our trailer and went for a week of holidays to attend the Bird Family reunion in Castlegar and around the Kootenay's (Glen's maternal family). We went to a few hot springs, and had a very cool afternoon (pun intended) exploring through the Cody Caves near Ainsworth Hot Springs. Both

girls spent a week in Kamloops with Grandma and Grandpa, then we all spent a week at our cabin at the Shuswap, returning home on Labour Day to go back to work and school on the next day.

In the fall (of 2017), Melissa took up soccer again, both girls were back in Guides and piano lessons,



*Glen, Melissa, Kayla, Susan. Our backyard. Fall 2017*

and Kayla took sewing lessons. Kayla went for a few guide camping trips (Melissa started to want to spend more time at home, undoubtedly due to something I've hinted at keeping us busy, but haven't yet mentioned). As part of an after school program Kayla took a cooking class.

Throughout the whole year Susan was deeply involved with the school's Parent Advisory Council (PAC), acting as the PAC chair.

Glen took a weekend trip to Kamloops, to attend the funeral of an old family friend, Keith Nicholson.

What have I hinted at that started in early 2017, kept us too busy to write a newsletter, made Melissa a bit more wanting to spend time at home, and probably was the biggest thing of our year? A good part of our house was basically destroyed... and I mean that in a (long term) good way. After many years of planning, we started a major renovation. In the fall of 2016 we contracted with Tuscan Developments to do a reasonably major renovation. In the spring of 2017 they added a deck out the back of our house and turned our carport into a fully enclosed garage (in large part so we would have somewhere to put our stuff when they started the interior). In the fall they started our interior renovation (upstairs). We actually managed to stay in our house by fully clearing out the upstairs and then moving into our

downstairs and putting in plastic barriers to keep the air safe to breath. Every day on leaving or coming home we passed through the "bubble" door to get in or out. The interior renovation started with the destruction of the floor and walls and ceiling, leaving a bare shell upstairs. I tell you, if you've never experienced big guys with crowbars smashing floors and walls on the floor immediately above where you're staying, consider yourself lucky! Plumbing and electrical continued through the winter. Through the coldest days of the year (while everyone had days off for Christmas and New Years) we were living in our basement with absolutely no insulation on the upper level to keep the house warm. I described it at the time as like living in a tent. Needless to say as we continued in to 2018 everything got put back together, with better access onto our new deck and to the backyard, a completely different (and modernized) kitchen, two upstairs bathrooms, and an individual bedroom for each of the girls. To achieve this we gave up our "formal" dining room and shrunk what had been our overly big bathroom down to a smaller one (or I guess I should say two). Thankfully the reno finally completed in May (of 2018) and we were able to move out of the bubble downstairs and back into our "new" home.

Finally we get to the point where we would usually "start" the story in your Gazette (Christmas 2017). Since it was a cold winter break, and our home was sort of like living in a tent at the time, we travelled to Glen's parent's place in Kamloops for



*Kayla sitting in a Canada 150 Chair. Revelstoke BC. Summer 2017*

Christmas proper. We came back to our place to ring in the New Year. Kayla started to wear glasses just as the year was ending. We went skiing at Mt. Seymour a few times over the

holidays, something we hope to do more of this year.

When school went back (January of 2018), our weekends were filled with taking the girls to piano lessons, Kayla to sewing, Melissa to soccer. Also new was the start of Melissa taking accordion lessons, an instrument she chose because she had said she wanted to play an instrument that nobody else played (we talked her out of her first thought which was the bagpipes). Both girls continued going to guides, and Kayla specifically went for a few camping trips. They took part in several after school programs such as art classes.

In the spring both girls went to the Abbotsford Airport for an event called "Girls Fly Too" where they learned about the aviation industry, and got to ride in a helicopter. Weekend fun included friend birthday parties, including a few sleepovers for Kayla. For spring break this year we all took a trip down through Washington State and spent a few days touring at the top of Mount Saint Helen's, then a couple of nights over to the Great Wolf Lodge "adventure hotel" (at least that's what I call it) where the girls (actually all of us) had great fun in the massive waterpark and playing an adventure game (maybe described as a massive scavenger hunt?), and then finally over to Long Beach Washington where we stayed for 3 nights, spending our days exploring the gorgeous beach.

Both girls this year got involved with Odyssey of the Mind (Kayla's 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year and Melissa's first). Kayla's team, with several years experience, won the provincials and her team (along with Susan and some other parents) flew to the States to Iowa State University

to compete in the World Finals of Odyssey of the Mind, competing against teams from around the world. They had a great trip and represented Canada well against teams from around the world.



*Kayla and Melissa @ Buntzen Lake. Summer 2018*

As the soccer season ended in late Spring, Melissa continued on into early summer once a week with a soccer skills camp that she attended.

By the time we entered summer, thankfully, our renovation was done and truly complete. We were finally fully moved back in. Having lost our dining room and thus down in space for big parties (unless we use the outdoors which is more doable than it used to be), we never did hold a big "reopening" house party. We did however have a few friends over to introduce them to our new house.

Glen's parents came to town one weekend where we enjoyed both Kayla and Melissa performing onstage at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts (where they get to play gorgeous grand pianos).

Susan and her sister Shirley attended a quick "How to build a fence" course offered by Home Depot, and one weekend we spent the weekend replacing the small fence alongside our driveway.



*Susan cooking in our temporary downstairs kitchen December 2017 (while renos happened upstairs)*

Mid July we took our trailer and had fun at the annual trip with friends to Alice Lake. Late July both girls attended SFU summer camp, with a focus on "water" where they somehow went swimming or some such water based sport every day. One day they even got to try out SCUBA diving! For the week ending with the August Long weekend we went to our cabin and spent a gorgeous week having fun swimming every day. Forest fires became bad in the interior for the latter half of the week, so we switched to some alternate activities, including visiting the

Donkey Refuge in Turtle Valley just outside of

Chase. I think it was that day that when we got back we heard some rustling in the bushes, and leaped inside after realizing it was a black bear rummaging for food. Continuing with wilfelife stories, I have to tell you that for the last few years the deer have been very comfortable around us and one day on this trip we saw a doe, resting in the shade beside our cabin window. She was maybe there by herself for about 15 minutes when suddenly 4 fawns showed up and the doe had to get up and lead them into the trees where they spent some time eating foliage.

In August, we planned to go to the lake for a good number of weekends, and for the most part that worked well. One weekend we planned to leave on the Friday, taking the day off, but first thing in the morning Glen was diagnosed with shingles. Needless to say, the long drive to a remote location didn't seem like a sensible idea, so that weekend was called off.

Kayla spent two full weeks at Grandma and Grandpa's in Kamloops (with the middle weekend with us at the lake), and Melissa spent one week with Kayla at Grandma and Grandpa's. Good times we understand were had by all.

Our friends Zac and Jen and family joined us at the lake for Labour Day and to celebrate Kayla's birthday before we all came back and started back to school (and work).

Both Kayla and Melissa continued their piano lessons. Kayla continued sewing lessons and took up indoor rock climbing. Melissa continued in soccer and accordion. Both girls were back at Guides, with a new troop that is slightly closer to us than their old one up at SFU. For school involvement this past fall both girls are in the school choir. Melissa took part in the school's track team. Kayla was on the school's Volleyball team. Both girls have been taking part in weekly Ultimate lessons (a cross between soccer and frisbee).

After work Glen plays indoor beach volleyball one night a week.



*Melissa playing soccer, Remembrance Day Tournament 2018*

For the second year in a row on the weekend close to Remembrance Day, Melissa took part in a big soccer tournament. Glen's parents came to town to both celebrate her birthday and to see her play. Being fully two years into being a soccer player, she is getting better and better. We'll tell of a highlight. Every game at the tournament finishes with a shootout, and for the 4 shootouts

Melissa was involved in she scored for her team three of the times (on this exact stat I think she led her team).

As December started, we hosted the annual Christmas Carolling party held by some old Toastmaster friends of ours. It was nice to not be living in a tent this year and to have good friends filling our house with

song.

December is quite filled. Glen's company's Christmas party happens as well as their annual Breakfast with Santa kids party. With Christmas being on a Tuesday this year, the girls are in school right up until Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> (their school's pancake breakfast day). Then they are off for 2 weeks, going back to school on Monday, January 7. Glen has booked off the same two weeks, and Susan is off for one week, going back to work (for probably a short day) on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and then from Jan 2 and on. For Christmas proper, we are planning to go to Glen's parent's place for a few days, but probably back home a few days after Christmas in order to get some skiing in.

Also note that with the busyness of the last few years, I have been doing a terrible job of keeping our website up to date. I actually have **written** content for a few posts, but just haven't had time to make them available on our site. So although the bottom of this page directs you to a website, be warned that there may not be new pictures/stories there for a bit... Maybe I'll get some time over the holidays....

From our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope that 2019 is a good year for you!

We're on the web.  
More photos can be viewed at  
[www.sgscott.com](http://www.sgscott.com)

