



G & S GAZETTE

December 2008

Seasons greetings family and friends. It has been a fast year with many first experiences for our family, which include Kayla's first steps, words and birthday. We've had many wonderful and joyful events this past year, and we would like to share some here in our annual newsletter.

Last Christmas 2007, Susan's parents and brother's family spent Christmas in Vancouver. We had Christmas Eve dinner with Glen's brother's family and had Christmas dinner at Susan's cousin Nancy's place. At cousin Nancy's there were competitive ping-pong and foosball games in the basement, and fun Bingo matches.

Kayla really enjoyed her first Christmas with family. Susan's parents visited until mid-January. While they were in town, we had a fun time looking at new condos. Susan's parents had a small interest at possibly buying a condo, so we took a look at some new developments in our neighbourhood. No purchase was made as we were just gathering information.

Late January, we went to Black Rock, Arizona to visit Glen's parents. We flew into L.A. and stayed there for one-night. Glen's niece, Rebecca, had a soccer tournament in L.A. and both Glen's brother's family and his parents were there. His parents drove us to their place in Black Rock. We stayed with his parents in their 5th-wheel. It was a fun time exploring the desert on ATVs and looking for geo-caches in the surrounding desert. During our stay, we went to a nearby town called Quartzite which is known for having a huge flea

market with a transient community, "boon-dockers", made of retirees who live out of their RVs. During the winter months, Quartzite is lit up like a city with all the RVs. It's really an amazing site when you drive by the area. We never knew RVing was such a big thing... something to look forward to when we retire. Glen's parents drove us back to L.A. for our return flight. Our return flight from L.A. was a horrendous experience out of LAX. Air Canada messed up on our return flight completely, and never acknowledged or apologized for their mess even though Susan wrote a long 4-page letter to their customer service department. Needless to say, we

have avoided flying with Air Canada since January.

In mid-February, we went on our first hike with Kayla, and friends Grace and Richard and their two boys Ben and Josh. We went for a hike around Rice Lake in Lynn Valley. It was very nice, but snowy. We weren't expecting that much snow, it was a little bit precarious in some

areas but we made it around. Late February, Glen's Uncle Van from Mannville, Alberta came for a weekend visit. We had a fun time sightseeing around downtown, Chinatown and Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge, and going to the nieces', Rebecca and Jessica's soccer games. We were certainly happy that Uncle Van was able to come visit us.

March weekends involved some travelling. We started the month off with a hike around Burnaby Mountain/SFU, then a weekend was spent in Seattle



Enjoying lunch during our hike at Brothers' Creek in West Vancouver.

for some sightseeing and a visit to the Seattle Zoo, even though Kayla slept through most of it. We went shopping at the outlet malls. Easter long weekend was the first weekend we went to Shuswap Lake. Glen's brother's family also went to the lake and we had a fun Easter egg hunt at his parents' place. The hunt was challenging this year, the grandkids were hunting like crazy to find the eggs and Glen and I hunted on behalf of Kayla. One of the eggs could not be found during the hunt and the grandparents could not remember where they hid it. Fortunately the egg was found in August and it was one of the plastic shaker eggs for Kayla and not chocolate.

In April, Glen had to work every other weekend and it lasted until July when his work project was finally finished. Susan and Kayla went for a one-week visit to Calgary to see her parents and other family members. Grandma and Grandpa Hui had a fun time watching Kayla laugh and play. Glen's parents came for a visit at the end of April to celebrate Zachary's (nephew) 16th birthday at Montana's Restaurant... although we didn't get Zachary to wear the big complimentary moosehead hat on his birthday. It was during this month that Kayla said her first word "hi", which was accompanied with a wave.

May was a very nice and busy month. We went for nice walks on the weekends around the park and picnicked at the beach with Grace and Richard's family. Susan's brother's wife Helen was in town for a weekend conference, so we had a family dinner in her honour. We attended friend's, Rob and Diana's wedding. In

late May we went on a 7-day Alaskan cruise sailing on the Royal Caribbean Radiance of the Seas. Glen's parents also came on the cruise with us. The cruise started in Vancouver and we had stops in Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Icy Straight Point and Seward. The cruise was very enjoyable and accommodating. The cruise had yummy food all the time. We went to all the formal dinners with Kayla. She sat through majority of the dinners except there were two nights where she was fussing because her teeth were cutting through. The waiters/chefs were very good. They provided bowls of minced meat, vegetables and fruit for Kayla, this amounted to about 3 soup bowls of food every night. Needless to say, Kayla never

finished one bowl. We did request the portions to be cut down but apparently they could not do this because it is more work and time for the chefs to change the portion sizes then to just mince the entire portion itself. So a lot of food went to waste, but Kayla definitely enjoyed the food. There was a playtime for babies each day where they would put out

different themed toys. We tried to take Kayla to it everyday. The nice thing about it was that you could try out the toys and then sign them out and take the toys back to your room. Glen and Susan went on one shore excursion, which was a helicopter tour

and dogsled ride on top of a glacier in Juneau. Glen's parents babysat Kayla in the morning. The helicopter tour was just amazing. The sky was perfect blue with no clouds, the tour was like what you would see in a movie. The glaciers we saw were amazing and the

dogsled ride was fantastic.

We took turns being the musher and sitting in the sled. After the helicopter tour, we went on a tour with Glen's parents and Kayla by van to see a church in the woods and



Susan and Glen dog-sledding on top of Norris Glacier in Juneau, Alaska.



Hiking at Dogwood Mountain on Mount Seymour with Richard and Grace's family and our friend Nikita.

another glacier. Juneau was a very nice stop. Icy Strait Point, also known as Hoonah, was a nice surprise. We had to anchor at sea and be ferried in. The island was beautiful, it reminded us of Seymour Arm at Shuswap Lake. In the distance you could see whale tail sightings. There were many whale tails during the cruise. We were so lucky with the weather. All our cruise days had sunny skies with highs in the upper-teens, there was even a bit of sun burning on the nose. Apparently the week before there was fog and rain, and this was the best weekend the locals had seen in a very long time. The forecast for the following week also called for rain, so we were really lucky. Our cruise finished in Seward, we rented a vehicle and drove to Anchorage. We toured around Anchorage for the day, dropped Glen's

parents off at the airport and we stayed an extra night. Our flight the following day went from Anchorage to Seattle with a short stopover, and then another flight from Seattle to Vancouver. The 3-hour flight from Anchorage to Seattle was an interesting flight for Kayla. The first hour Kayla was all happy in

our laps in our seat, the second hour she started to scream as she was getting bored. So Glen would take her for a walk up and down the aisle. Every time he would come back to our seats, she would start screaming. The third hour was her normal bedtime. There was good screaming for about 15 minutes before Kayla finally fell asleep. She was then out for the night and she never woke up, even during the stopover and flight transfer, until we got home and put her in her bed. So now we can proudly say that, yes, we have had the screaming child on the plane, and we appreciate everyone's patience.

In June we alternated weekends with Glen working and us going to our cabin at Shuswap Lake. Our cabin guests for this year included Grace and Richard and their two children Ben and Josh; Rita; Pauline and her two kids, Nicholas and Hayley, and her niece Ann; Zachary and Jennifer and their

daughter Jazmine; and Susan's sister Shirley. Shuswap was very nice with swimming in the lake, picnicking and playing around the beach, and going for short hikes. Kayla even enjoyed swimming in the lake as there were times where she did not want to get out of the water. Good thing Susan took Kayla to the pool for swim lessons during the spring, it probably helped Kayla get used to the water and wearing the lifejacket.

During July and August, Glen took 2 weeks vacation. Susan and Kayla flew to Calgary to visit her parents again. Glen drove to Calgary on the last weekend in July. We stayed in Calgary for a few days. Of course we had food (and did we say more food?) with Susan's family, and we went for a visit to the Calgary Zoo. At the end of July we then headed

north to Sylvan Lake for 3-nights to Glen's annual family reunion. It was a nice time. Glen golfed, while Susan looked after Kayla with the help of Rebecca and Jessica and we went to the lake for the afternoon. After the family reunion, we had a fairly relaxing drive back to Shuswap Lake. We stayed overnight at Lake Louise and then went for



Kayla really enjoys swimming in the middle of the lake at Shuswap.

a short hike to see Peyto Lake which was absolutely gorgeous. We stayed at Shuswap Lake for the week and had various guests visit. Late August, we went for a 7-hour hike at Joffre Lakes in Pemberton. Susan's sister Shirley also went on the hike. The hike was very nice with the site of seeing 3 glacial lakes. Needless to say we were very tired and sore. Glen carried Kayla the entire way... What a trooper! Kayla is such a good traveller. We are so lucky that she didn't complain the entire time on the hike. Also in late August, Susan started Kayla in daycare. The first daycare that we had chosen only lasted for one month. We were not happy with the reliability of the person, so we had to find another one. Fortunately we were able to find a new daycare for Kayla, and she started the new daycare in October.

In September, we celebrated Kayla's first birthday with close friends and family. Also Susan returned back to work in the second week of September. She

received a semi-promotion while she was on maternity leave. Her manager, who was also on maternity leave at the same time, decided to return to work part-time. So Susan is now Acting Manager, Communications and Service Planning, part-time and the Communications Officer the other half of the time. She's enjoying the new position, however there have been some challenges with learning the ministry protocol in which her office is within. After about the third day of work, Susan didn't feel that she had ever left. It's amazing how quickly one year goes by. Kayla started walking at about one week after her birthday.

Kayla started at her new daycare in October, and she just loves it there. The lady who runs the daycare is

very reliable, organized and family oriented. There are lots of toys for Kayla to play with and many kids for Kayla to learn from. A couple times a week when we go pick Kayla up from daycare she's shaking her head saying "no"



Kayla on her 1st birthday and having fun with cousins Jessica, Rebecca and Zachary.

or hiding, all in response to the idea of coming home just because she is having so much fun at daycare. Kayla usually will give us a big hug and smile thankfully before she shakes her head or hides. Glen received a new work project from IBM for a year. His new work project is downtown, so Glen and Susan now carpool to work in the morning since they are working about two blocks apart. During Thanksgiving, we spent it at Shuswap Lake. Thanksgiving was a big celebration this year, as a number of Scott family members were baptized. Kayla, Glen's brother's wife Ellen, and niece Jessica were all baptized at St. Davids by the Lake Parish, which is the church Glen's parents attend. The baptism ceremony was very nice with many family members present. We also locked up our cabin for the season.

November and December have been relatively quieter months. We still take Kayla to her weekly

music class and she really enjoys it. She likes to bounce and swing to the music, and enjoys all the different musical instruments that the class provides. We both enjoy taking her to the class as there is lots of participation. During these two months we also put in our names for the 2010 Olympic tickets. We didn't receive our first choices however we were able to obtain some event tickets. Uncle Van is also going to be coming to Vancouver in 2010 so he'll be joining us for the Olympics. We're really looking forward to having the Olympics in Vancouver.

This first year with Kayla has really been a fun year. It's even becoming more fun as she goes through her toddler years. It's really amazing watching your child develop - the motor skills, language and

mannerisms. We certainly have lots of laughs, hugs and kisses around the house everyday. Currently Kayla's new words are "kitten", "knock-knock", "woof-woof", "meow", "down", and "up". She enjoys organizing the Tupperware containers, playing in her pretend kitchen, climbing the stairs, and of course eating. We look forward to next week's list of

likes and dislikes.

We'll be staying in town for Christmas. Susan is off for two weeks during the holiday season as the daycare is closed during this time. Glen is off for one week. Uncle Van is coming to town on Christmas Eve for a few days. We might do a short road trip to the States or to Vancouver Island but we haven't decided yet. Other than that, we'll be visiting with family and friends, and enjoying watching Kayla tear into her Christmas presents. We hope you and your family have a fun and safe holiday season. Enjoy and Merry Christmas!

-Glen, Susan & Kayla

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