

The Scott Family Gazette

Merry Christmas all!

Last edition of the Gazette was written Christmas afternoon of 2015, while we were at Glen's parent's place in Kamloops. We're doing much better this year compared to last for getting our gazette written, with there still being a few weeks to go before Christmas arrives.

The 2016 Christmas season is a busy one. We were commenting that it probably feels busier than usual because there is basically one less weekend available this year, with Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Years Eve, and New Years itself all falling on weekend days, thus leaving less weekends for things like parties and get togethers, other than the big days themselves (which no matter what day they are on, can always be counted on as a family get together). But we'll get to our squeezed 2016 holiday season a little later in this newsletter.

As we got into 2016, Kayla and Melissa were in piano lessons every Saturday morning, and they went to dance lessons. Both girls were in ski lessons in January and early February every Sunday at Mount Seymour. The snow was good! The girls and dad all had seasons passes so were there every weekend, but Susan would frequently come along for some skiing as well. During the weekdays, both girls went to swimming lessons a few times a week. They also took part in after school clubs, such as the Lego club, Mad scientist, playing games, or sports. Kayla was in a school club called Odyssey of the Mind, which is sort of a cross between Reach for the Top, drama, and an



Kayla and Melissa with Santa, December 2016

engineering club. Melissa went to Sparks every week (the first level of the Girl Guides program).

The first week of February, Glen flew to Florida for work, but thankfully (according to Glen), didn't miss a beat for taking the girls out to their weekend events. The girls also tried a few sessions of Ringette, and even though they enjoyed it (especially

Melissa), they didn't bite for actually signing up for the year.

As indicated in last year's letter, in March we went for a mini-holiday spending a half week at Big White ski resort in Kelowna with our friends Zack and Jen and their kids. The snow was great as usual and a good time was had by all.

In late March, the weekend after getting back from Big White, Glen did the ultimate Vancouver thing and went skiing at Seymour in the morning, and then 18 hole pitch and putt in the afternoon with his dad, as his parents were in town visiting.

Late April we went for another long weekend trip, and drove down to Seaside Oregon, a place that was the destination of a trip taken in 1997 by Susan and Glen. We weren't as aggressive in how we did this trip, we took the girls to their usual things (piano and dance), before leaving town and driving just down to Olympia Washington



Susan, Kayla, and Melissa; skiing at Mount Seymour February 2016

for the first night. We had dinner in the Casa Mia Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, which has to be one of the best Italian Restaurants we've ever eaten in. In the morning, we toured around the Washington State Capital campus, before leaving

and driving further south. Mid afternoon we toured Astoria, on the Washington/Oregon border, and went up 164 stairs to get to the top of the Astoria Column, which is a 125 foot tower originally built in 1925, for a great view. We made it to Seaside in time to go out and look for seashells on the beach. Over the next few days we had a great time on the beach and went on some great hikes.



Kayla and Melissa in Astoria, OR; April 2016

In May Susan's involvement with the girls' school's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) really picked up, and was involved in planning both the school's sports day that successfully happened in May, and also the school's multicultural day, a very well received event that happened early June.

Late May, Susan was signed up for a month-long course to learn pickleball, a sport she thoroughly enjoyed and kept playing through the summer.

Mid June saw both girls playing pieces for their year end concert, on a grand piano in the lovely Shadbolt Centre for the Arts. Well done ladies!

Late June Glen went for a quick work trip for one night down to Seattle.

School this year let out Wednesday, June 29 and we were then on a plane heading east early the morning of Thursday June 30. We flew to Ottawa, with a quick touchdown in Toronto. Friday, July 1, we were down at Parliament Hill enjoying Canada's largest Canada Day celebration. "Hey, isn't that Justin Trudeau over there?" We saw the snowbirds, and toured many of the great museum's in the nation's capital. We took transit from Ottawa, Ontario over to Hull, QC to see the National History Museum. We spent time in the museum in order to avoid one of the rainstorms that kept coming and going during the day. We ran back across the bridge into Ontario just as another rainstorm hit, and found shelter under a statue/monument just big enough for us and a few other families. We dried out in a Tim Horton's in time to get back to Parliament Hill to see the fireworks. Over the

following days we saw 24 Sussex where the Trudeau's currently live, the locks on the Rideau River, touring Parliament, a tour of Rideau Hall (where the Governor General lives), the National Art Gallery, the Royal Canadian Mint, and the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum – where we spent time command the starship Enterprise, a StarTrek exhibit temporarily housed at the museum – who would have guessed that Glen would be evaluated as speaking perfect Klingon!??

After almost a week in Ontario we took a Via train to Toronto. I never guessed that some Canadian lines were so fast?? I remember being surprised when looking at my GPS and being told we were zipping along at over 150km/h. I guess the mountains and necessary turns here in BC only limit speeds here and where it's flatter, the trains can go faster. We were picked up at Toronto's Union Station by Susan's brother Richard, who took us to his house where we were hosted for the coming week in grand style.

Over the following week, we went many places, saw many things, and had a great time. We took the ferry to Toronto Island, where we enjoyed a leisurely afternoon biking and swimming (in Lake Ontario). We went to the top of the CN Tower (and looked down on an in progress Blue Jay's game). We touched sharks and experienced many things in the wonderful Ripley's Aquarium in downtown Toronto. We toured and learned about Casa Loma, a very neat old mansion whose original owners were involved with Canada's spy agency and who had a big part in making Girl Guides successful in Canada. While there we also saw one of Kayla's



Kayla and Melissa collecting seashells in Seaside, OR
friends in the mansion and toured a bit of it with her. We went to Toronto Zoo, and saw the famous Pandas. We went to Canada's Wonderland, and discovered for ourselves a wonderful destination theme park right here in Canada. I'm sure it's about the same size as Disneyland. We spent half the day

cooling our heels in the water park (a wild water park it is – we even experienced what it would be like to be flushed down a toilet on one water slide). The other half the day we rode some great rides. Kayla and I rode Canada's fastest/tallest and second fastest/tallest roller coasters (the world's 8th fastest/tallest). We toured the Royal Ontario Museum.

After a week at Richard's, we went on a road trip for a few nights to see Niagara Falls. While at the falls we rode the famous boat up to the base of the falls (the American boat is called the Maid of the Mist while the Canadian, the one we rode, is the Hornblower). We went into a cave that goes behind the falls. One afternoon we walked over to the States, and experienced their lovely national park, where you can get much closer to the water. We saw some great waterfalls. Other than being charged an arm and a leg for being on one of the Ontario toll highways without an RFID tag, we had a great time!

It ended all too soon and we were soon on a flight back home. Thank you to Susan's brother Richard and his family for the great hosts they were when we were out there.

When we got back the girls immediately went into 2 weeks of day SFU summer camp. After those weeks they stayed in Kamloops for a couple of weeks of fun with Grandma and Grandpa. Thank you!

We also managed to fit in a number of trips to our cabin, a couple of times hosting our friends Jen and Zac and their kids, and then later in the fall, Richard and Grace and their kids. Through the summer we actually managed to fully paint the exterior of our cabin.

The girls also took advantage of their membership in a program called KidsWorld, which allowed them (and us) to get free (or more correctly stated included due to their membership fees) admission to many places through the summer, such as going on a horse drawn carriage ride in Stanley Park and an intro to martial arts (too many neat things to list here).

Late August we went on our annual camping trip to Alice Lake arranged by our friends Jen and Zac. For this year, it was the only time we used our trailer. So we were laughing when one weekend we were de-winterizing preparing for the camptrip, then two weeks later we were already winterizing again.

September saw the girls go back to school, and returning to busy scheduled weekends. With both girls in piano, and Melissa taking art class and Kayla continuing Acro. During the week they have both been in swimming lessons. Both girls are going to Girl Guides. Kayla specifically in a Guides troop while Melissa being a few years younger is in a Brownies troop.



Scott Family on Hornblower in Niagara Falls

We made the triple crown of Vancouver sport this fall; first with our getting to a Canucks game against Edmonton due to the KidsWorld membership; second making it to a BC Lions game due to their Guides involvement (where we all got to go down onto the field); and then due to Glen's brother Jim's tickets otherwise going unused for one game, Glen and the girls

went to a Whitecaps Soccer game. The girls say the soccer game was the most fun to watch.

Kayla was in Cross Country running after school this fall. A fun night of Trick or Treating was made with their friends on Halloween night.

Kayla's birthday party this year was a sleepover with a few of her friends. Melissa's party was a party at Crash Crawly's.

Winter arrived with energy late November, and Glen and Kayla have already been up skiing, and are looking forward (with Melissa) to getting up more during the winter break. For Christmas, we'll be going to Glen's parent's place. New Year's eve will be spent at a party at Susan's parent's.

In the new year we'll be skiing on the weekend as well as the girls' lessons. We also have a ski trip planned for spring break to Big White with Jen and Zack and family. That will be fun! This summer we expect we'll be using our trailer more for a family



reunion happening in the Kootenay's.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

We're on the web.
More photos can be viewed at
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