

DIVEKY TIMES

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Inuit may be suing the US Government for doing nothing about **Global Warming** but we revel in our environment's degradation, enjoying the warmest Christmas season we've experienced in the North. Why, they're setting traps to keep the coyotes off the airport runway! Coyotes? Yes, they're moving in. On Sunday a magpie dropped into our garden. And a couple weeks ago our friend Kate opened her cabin door early in the morning and there was a drooling grizzly, right in her face. Kate's a powerful soprano and the mighty scream she let out brought the bear to a standstill, on her front step, giving her time and room to bolt the door! Portents of Global Warming? Perhaps. We're not supposed to have coyotes, magpies or grizzlies up here. But they're welcome to stay if it means warm temperatures, well above the -30°C we expect at this time, soft and gentle snowfalls and, on a mercenary note, the savings we've noticed in our fuel and electricity bills since August.

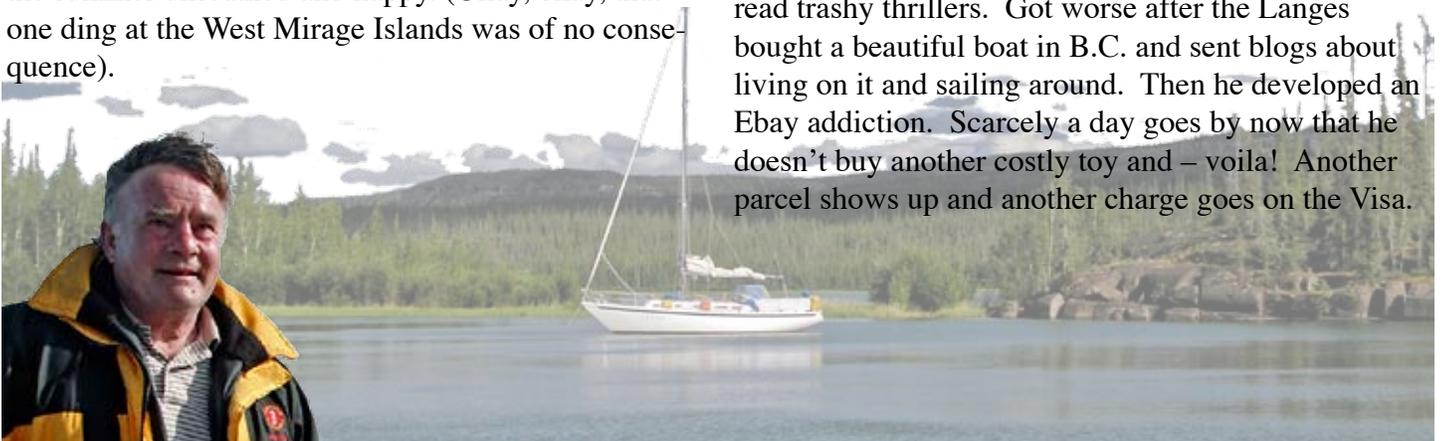
What a lovely **summer** we had on the lake! Mid-July to mid-August was gorgeous and we visited many favourite places and explored new ones. Christie Bay is a beautiful place with many interesting spots and the end of the bay features stromatolites and easy open walks. We ventured into the Inconnu Channel for the first time and found some complicated waters and a bad anchorage on the one day that we had a terrible gale – we had to sail out of there in a hurry with 30 knots of wind behind us until George managed to find a cozy hideaway out of the wind and waves. Next morning when we woke it was mirror-calm. Although we saw only two other sailboats the whole time, we did have some nice visits: the jolly crowd at Quiet Cove made us feel welcome as usual and there are always friendly folks at Lady Jane Bay and Moose Bay. Another good thing: our keel passed the summer unscathed and happy. (Okay, okay, that one ding at the West Mirage Islands was of no consequence).

Pat and his family were our first summer guests.



Home again after our month's cruise, we enjoyed many short trips – dinners on board with friends, weekends with Jackie, and some pretty chilly sails around the bay wondering if we would get snowed in, before we finally hauled Yola out in mid-September.

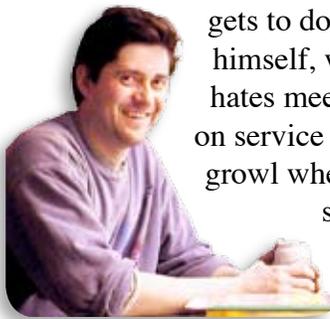
George then went into a decline. Did nothing but read trashy thrillers. Got worse after the Langes bought a beautiful boat in B.C. and sent blogs about living on it and sailing around. Then he developed an Ebay addiction. Scarcely a day goes by now that he doesn't buy another costly toy and – voila! Another parcel shows up and another charge goes on the Visa.



Jackie is now 8 and in grade three. She has abandoned all other activities, except for swimming, in favour of soccer. She entered a weekend tournament and the three goals she scored helped get her team into the final — but they lost. Having had a taste of success she had her heart set on winning, and had to dry a few tears of disappointment, but she brightened up when she found they were getting ... MEDALS!! Her regular team is unbeaten so far and maybe she'll go for gold again at season's end, with Corey's help: he's the chauffeur, always there for her, fixes shoelaces on the fly and runs over with the water bottle at half time.



A great soccer Dad, **Corey's** also a journeyman plumber and boiler man but says he's not sure he likes it because now that he's qualified he gets to do all kinds of nasty jobs by himself, with no help! He especially hates meeting dogs when he's out on service calls: they love to nip and growl when he's trapped in crawl-spaces and other tight spots trying to get at pipes and other what-nots.



Janet, in between working, minuteing her meetings, fundraising, subbing and being a Nana, finds time not only to pot but also to give lessons. She is such an excellent teacher her students are now better potters than she is! Or so she says.... She and George make a well-balanced team: the more active she gets, the lazier he becomes.



Eva has moved on from DeBeers to the GNWT's Financial Management Board. She'll be taking a break in March when the new baby boy she and Pat are making will be born. What an excitement! We're collecting little blue things and counting the days.



Andrew is a stay-at-home Dad and just loves it. He and Graham never run out of things to do and their neighbor Didi has a dayhome, so there is lots of visiting back and forth. But Brita got a job and went back home to her parents so Graham spends days with Andrew and nights with his Mom: it seems to be working well for them.



Graham is 18 months and very energetic and busy and bossy. He has many words but prefers full sentences, like "Ukkeywa ogloy" or, "Biglle egammee pog?" which, naturally, we understand as, "Give me my toy" or, "May I have a cookie?" He is easily amused and always finds something to laugh about. The minute he sets foot in our house he looks for the cat, hoping to fling himself on top of it and give it lots of petting.

The cat usually chooses to skip this event.



Diveky Times: we considered making this 16th edition the "tell it as it really is" one, with the omissions, the setbacks, losses and rough times. But we've settled for the truth once again, for those highlights of love and laughter that keep all of us going. Enjoy yourselves. We try to.