

DIVEKY TIMES

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It's Boxing Day and we are off to Toronto tomorrow for a week - thought we might do the Diveky Times when we get back but that would be just TOO late!! So here we are, and thank you all for your cards and letters, and good wishes to you too, for a wonderful new year.

It has been a busy year, especially for **Eva** and her family - now they are all down in Alberta visiting with Pat's family for Christmas. Their new baby, Grant McKinley, arrived in mid-March and he has been a delight ever since. He is a sturdy, happy little chap, and he brings joy and laughter to all, especially his big sister Jackie. Pat is so happy, he looks as if he has found his calling in life as a dad. Eva and her other friends with babies spend lots of time together.



Janet's pottery life became precarious in July when the

Guild moved out of the High School. While waiting for new premises she wheels at home but has to take her pots elsewhere for glazing and firing - lots of breakage on the way. She's looking forward to lots of fun and potting up a storm when the new Guild site is ready.

George's new Ramirez guitar came with lessons from our own master musician.

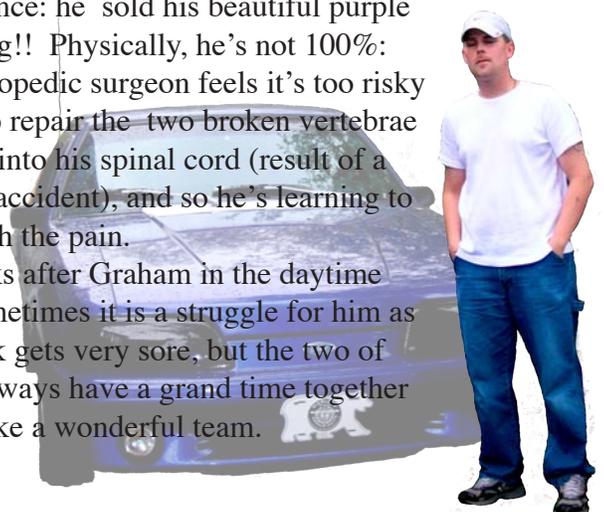


George and Janet had a busy year with grandchildren and the odd bit of subbing in the schools - when Janet goes to Sir John Frankin High School they ask her "Are you Supersub's wife?" - but Janet is still enjoying her part-time technical library.

Graham is the star of the talking show - he loves the telephone, talks himself to sleep, and when he wakes up it's, "Nana, it's pancake time!" He thrives at the pool and has made many friends there. The other day in the hot tub he asked Bill Gilday, "Are you a Grandpa?" and, getting a "Yes" from Bill, he then stuck his foot up in the air and asked "Do you like my toes?"



Andrew is doing OK despite a rough emotional experience: he sold his beautiful purple Mustang!! Physically, he's not 100%: his orthopedic surgeon feels it's too risky to try to repair the two broken vertebrae poking into his spinal cord (result of a skidoo accident), and so he's learning to live with the pain. He looks after Graham in the daytime and sometimes it is a struggle for him as his back gets very sore, but the two of them always have a grand time together and make a wonderful team.



Yola gave us some wonderful times this summer - apart from cruises around the bay with Jackie and Graham and Andrew and Iain McPherson, we headed out to Christie Bay again and found some absolutely wonderful new anchorages. One evening as we danced to B.B. King in the cockpit after a delicious trout dinner (OK, OK, and a wee drop of wine, too), Janet gave George occasion for great merriment. She noted we were being keenly observed by a bear on shore (you can see it on the masthead). When it stepped into the water as if to swim over and see what it was all about, Janet promptly raised the boarding ladder to prevent the bear from climbing aboard!! On our return voyage Janet misstepped on a rock and got a trip home by Cessna to have her broken ankle put in a cast. We then learned that our sister-in-law Jill had also spent six weeks with her ankle in an aircast, so when we visit her in South Africa next month we'll compare footnotes.

On a February whim we booked one of those last-minute all-inclusive holidays to Puerto Vallarta, with a sidetrip to Calgary to enjoy the Lewis' hospitality (it was "the hecht" as Janet's dad used to say) and to see the Carnews. We had a lovely couple days en famille and then off to our Mexican hotel, right on the ocean, old, comfortable and smack downtown. We took a few trips by water taxi but mostly our non-lazy time was spent on 40 cent bus rides and exploring the downtown and the malecon on foot. We had a GREAT time, made good new friends, and would go back any time. Our sailing heroes the Langes are wintering at the "next" spot, Zihuatenejo, and if we weren't heading for South Africa we'd be joining them.



Sad but true, we spent two weeks "fluffing" (real estate jargon) our Toronto condo to ready it for sale. After five years' not using it, we figured it unlikely we'll ever move back to TO.



We enjoyed old friends like Liz and John, the Brownridge bunch, and especially **Gabor** who is 90 and the only grown-up left in our family. It was so good to be with him and with Sylvia and the Andrews.

Jackie is at her Nan's favorite age now - grade 4 - and she is getting tall and very fast on her feet and strong — she boots the soccer ball in with the best of them and scored three goals for her team the last game we cheered. We were thrilled at the Christmas concert with the duet she sang in the choir. And she's becoming a good sailor, once steering Yola all the way home in quite rambunctious weather. Grandpa was so proud of her! Next summer she will catch her first fish. She misses her dad when he is away - Corey is now on a two week on/two week off schedule at the diamond mine.

