



G & S Gazette

The year of 2001 has come and gone. We can't believe how quickly this year has passed. Our first year of marriage was fantastic with many changes, celebrations and adventures. Our newsletter has been a bit tardy this year... many apologies. We hope you enjoy our newsletter update and look forward to hearing from you.

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S & G



Life as a Married Couple

The first year of marriage was absolutely wonderful. It took many months to adjust to the "living together" aspect in terms of whose items to keep and what to throw out or put in storage. Thank you to Glen's parents who helped in cleaning up our living room of "stuff". Many of the items that we did not want to depart with were packed in the parent's truck and shipped to Shuswap Lake for future usage or for our summer home.

At the beginning of 2001, little did we know that our summer home would be live-able by summer and in need of the extra "stuff". In early March, the land excavation and the septic tank installation began. In May, we met with Glen's Uncle Lee, who was the builder of the house, to discuss the cabin plans. Uncle Lee was amused by the simplicity of our building plans—a square box with a couple of rooms—no special angles and limited number of windows. Glen's parents oversaw the building project and found some great



The front of our cabin at Shuswap Lake

economical or free deals on windows, doors, stove, fridge, and bathroom parts for us. Glen and I spent most of our weekends at Shuswap Lake to see the building progression. Uncle Lee did a fantastic job at the building and his "helper", Glen's dad, was always available to pound a few nails and put up the roof. The shell of our summer home was completed at the end of July and live-able with water and electricity. We spent many more weekends at the lake adjusting to our peaceful summer home and closed up for the winter on Thanksgiving weekend. More work needs to be done in the next couple

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of years such as insulation, deck and flooring but there doesn't seem to be a rush at this time. Just enjoying what we have for now.

Our lives saw changes with Susan's career change in May to a Public Affairs position with Canada Safeway and a new job for Glen at ALI Technologies in Richmond. Susan's parents visited during the Spring after a three week trip to Dubai, China and Taiwan. Susan's parents were visiting her brother and sister-in-law and their new grandson, Daniel.

During the summer, we went house-boating at Shuswap Lake for Glen's annual family reunion. The reunion began with a golf tournament and then six house-boats set sail on a three day trip. The weather cooperated during the day and rained during the night. We encountered a small storm but we motored on. The swimming was a nice temperature and Glen enjoyed testing all the boat slides. The last night of the houseboat trip, we noticed our boat was tipped and didn't think much of it, since it was our last night. The next morning our house boat would not start. One of the pontoons took on water, which made the boat sink to one side, and the engine took in some water. One of our other boats towed us to shore while we had a nice relaxing ride in the hot sun.

Our summer was, also, filled with many visits to Playland and PNE, riding the rides, watching an egg auction (\$1500 for an egg!!), and a company picnic. We went on



The houseboats that were rented for the trip. This photo was taken from a float plane belonging to the company that we rented from.

a lovely sailing trip through English Bay with our friends Nikita and Barry when they visited from Nanaimo in August.

We celebrated our first anniversary on September 16 with 2300 other people. Susan had an event that she organized at the Abbotsford Rotary Stadium for the Safeway employees and families. The event was very successful with many food and games. Glen was an absolute dear for helping with the set up and take down of the event. It was a tiring first anniversary but definitely a memorable one.

In early November Glen and Susan went with Glen's parents to Las Vegas for the weekend (Thursday to Sunday). The weather in Vegas was absolutely beautiful at 25 degrees Celsius. We had a wonderful time touring the new hotels, experiencing a couple of shows— Caesar's Magical Empire (wonderful magic show and dinner) and Excalibur's Tournament of Kings,

visiting with friends Rob and Kim, riding roller-coasters at The Stratosphere and The Sahara, and just walking the Strip. To this date, Susan's favourite roller-coaster is at the Sahara

Hotel due to the fast and smooth ride. There were much fewer tourists than usual. We didn't have any problems seeing any of the free shows such as the water display at the Bellagio. The adventure in Vegas was not over.

Our travel agent contacted us on the

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Susan's Update

This year has definitely been a busy year. The biggest change for me was a career change. At the end of April, I left Lifeworks/Telus whom I worked with for the past eight years. It felt weird leaving but it was a needed change for me. In May, I started working with Canada Safeway as the Because We Care Coordinator/Public Affairs Assistant for B.C. It has been an interesting career change. The people are very nice and I enjoy what I do. My main responsibility is coordinating the annual charity fundraising campaign for the B.C. stores and organizing a celebration event that happened in September. My job also involves store grand opening festivities and Safeway sponsorship activities. I attended three grand openings, two on the Island and one in the Interior. Grand openings are busy days and nights. It's amazing how people's politeness deteriorate when free cake and coffee are available. The experience with the company has been very valuable. I've been exposed to many new things such as communicating with the media, participating in sponsorship activities like Safeway Select Curling, PNE, and speaking to dignitaries from the Municipalities. Though the experience is great, I am still keeping my eyes open for other job postings for a Marketing or Special Events Coordinator. So we will see where I am in the upcoming year. I am still studying part-time at BCIT for my Marketing Communications Certificate. Each term, my course load has slowly

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Friday to inform us that our airline Canada 3000 had gone bankrupt and all flights were grounded. She found alternative return tickets with America West Airlines for us, which would fly to Phoenix, Arizona and we would transfer to another plane

for Vancouver. All we had to do was purchase the tickets on Saturday for our Sunday flight at 7:00 am. On Saturday, we went to the airport to purchase the tickets. The one way ticket cost as much as our hotel and plane package that we purchased from Canada 3000 Holidays. The ticket agent told us to be at the airport for check-in 3 hours in advance. We asked if this was necessary since our flight was leaving at 7:00 am (which means we would have to be at the airport at 4:00am) and she said, "Yes, Sunday is the busiest day and by 4:30am... the line ups are out the door." To our mistake, we listened to her. On Sunday morning we set out for the airport and arrived at 4:00am. No one at the ticket counters. No one in the line-up. Another couple from Oregon came shortly and said we should get in line, so we did. We were the first in line. The time passed, 4:30 came-- still no one at the ticket counter and about 20 people in line-- 5:00am and the ticket counters finally opened. The line-ups were NOT out to the doors. We were not impressed with the America West ticket agent's information.



Getting ready to play a game of golf at Anglemont Golf Course. (L-R) Bill (Glen's dad), Susan, Shirley (Susan's sister) and Glen.

Being first in line did not have its advantages. As part of new airport

security policy, people are randomly chosen to have all belongings checked. We were the lucky ones. All four of us had to go in another line-up for a security check. Again we were first in line because we were early-birds.

The security guards had not yet started work and they arrived at 5:15. All our suitcases were inspected and passed, and we had to go back to the ticket counter for our boarding passes. There was confusion with the location of our boarding passes (our luggage was almost tagged for Baltimore). The ticket counter was unable to give us the passes until we arrived at the check-in gate, so they gave us some vouchers. Finally, we went for



Susan inside kitchen and dining area of cabin.

breakfast at 6:00am, ate and headed to the gate that was instructed to us. At the gate, there was no one sitting in the waiting area. We went to the counter inquiring about our voucher

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dropped. This past term, I took two courses and am burnt out. Next term, I'll be taking one course in Advertising Design. Recently, I completed a course on web-site design with Front Page. The course was enjoyable and informative. I feel my head is going to burst with all the information. Hopefully, I'll be able to put together a web site after the holiday season and have it linked to the site Glen and I currently have (http://www.geocities.com/glen_s). I went to Calgary in late September for a few days. My sister was doing her annual visit from Taiwan so I went back to Calgary with her to visit my parents. It was a very nice time. My mom and dad are active with ping-pong a couple of times per week, walking, and participating in church activities. I spent some time with my cousins Amy and Kenny, which was fun. My sister and I visited our old junior high school. One teacher, Mr. Garrett, still remained from when I went to the school. He vaguely remembered me (13 years later) and we updated each other on life events. My sister visited her old art teacher, Mr. Young, from 20+ years ago. Again, he vaguely remembered her. Of course, both teachers remembered my brother and asked about him. He was always the star and made the impression with the teachers (Way to go Rich.--Shirley and I aren't jealous, really!?). My brother and his wife had a baby boy in early January. Our new nephew's name is Daniel. My brother and his family will be ready to come back to Canada during the Summer of 2002. Stay in touch and I hope to hear from you soon. *



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passes. The lady did not recognize our vouchers and asked for our gate and flight numbers. We told her and she looked on her computer. It took her a few minutes to figure out our gate number. She repeatedly asked us where our boarding passes were, and we kept telling her that we've gone through all the security checks and the vouchers

are what they gave us. By this time it was 6:30am, the lady at the counter told us to hurry to the new gate because the flight was loading. We hurried to the gate and lined up to board the plane. When we arrived, the boarding attendant asked us for our boarding passes, we gave her our vouchers that we'd been carrying. She said we needed to see Security for our boarding passes, which made no sense to us because we had gone through security checks many times. Our names were then announced to go to the Security table for carry-on inspection. Our carry-ons were inspected and we received our boarding passes. We were one of the last people to board the plane... so much for being first in line. When we landed in Phoenix we stopped over for 2 hours and took a little nap. Before boarding again, we had to show photo i.d. at the check-in counter. Glen and I checked in and Glen's parents went for some food. They came back when the plane was loading. We told them to check-in and we'd meet them on the plane. So Glen and I boarded and waited for his parents to arrive. We waited and



Anglemont Golf Course at Hole 6. This is the view and hole just below our lot. (L-R) Bill, Glen, Melrose (Glen's mom)

waited. The plane was well filled except for the parents' seats. Nobody was boarding and we were getting worried that his parents may miss the flight. Finally, his parents boarded and the

attendant closed the plane door. Apparently Glen's mom was unable to find her driver's license at the check-in counter and was pulling out all of her i.d.. She found her Costco card

that has a photo. The Supervisor came over to look at her i.d. and they allowed her board the plane. Shortly after putting all her i.d. away, she found her driver's license. Luckily, she had her Costco card. Who knew the Costco card would help at airport security?? We safely arrived home (and got an opportunity to fly over the Grand Canyon). It was a memorable trip and we are, now, waiting to see how to get reimbursed for our return flight (thanks to Sears Travel for being so good to us).

Christmas is now here and we will be spending Christmas at Shuswap Lake with Glen's family. We will be there for the week of Christmas.

That's our year. Hope you enjoyed our lengthy story. *

Glen's Update

I believe that the opening sentence in Susan's Update says she thinks 2001 has been a busy year. I'd certainly agree with her. Where to start?

As mentioned elsewhere, I moved to a new job this year. With the spiraling economy, the internet business company I was working with wasn't doing too well, so they decided to give lay off notice to all the people working in my office and close down their Canadian development office completely. Thankfully we were offered a reasonable severance package, which helped for a few things. It got me down to the annual JavaOne conference, which took place in June in San Francisco (a week full time with a bunch of technology geeks—good time). It also managed to pay for a good portion of our cabin we built this year. We certainly had a good time going every weekend to the Shuswap seeing our new place come up by the bootstraps. Thanks Uncle Lee and Dad!

My new company that I'm working for is ALI Technology, which is a medical imaging company based in Richmond. I've taken up driving to work, carpooling each day with Susan (thankfully we work in the same direction).

We went to my cousin Marc's (and Lynette's) wedding. It was a beautiful day on Lynette's parent's ranch. We did some great hiking, both at the Shuswap and some places around the Lower Mainland.

Our car was broken into and we had our car stereo stolen. Thankfully not too much problem. From that, we learned that 1990 Civics are one of the most commonly stolen cars. ☹

One interesting time was due to Susan's PR involvement. We spent an evening working the phones at the Children's Miracle Network Telethon (working the 21:00-23:00 shift). A cool thing to do if you have the opportunity.

*That's all for now, I'm looking forward to 2002. **

Happy Holidays!!