



# G & S GAZETTE

December 2002



## 2002- A Year of Enjoying Life and Weekend Travelling

The year kicked off with Susan taking another marketing course at BCIT. Throughout the year, she took a course each term and has three more courses to finish her Certificate in Marketing Communications. In late January, Susan and Glen enjoyed a scrumptious large steak meal with good friends, Dave and Miriam, at Morton's of Chicago- a well-known steak house. This was a night of over-eating as we chowed down on bread, appetizers, 16 oz steaks, bushels of broccoli, stone-sized baked potatoes and dessert for each of us. Needless to say some of us felt a bit ill from all the food, but we had to admit that the food was absolutely delicious and good to do once every 5 years.

In March our first big purchase of the year was made as we bought a new 2002 standard Volkswagen Jetta. We (i.e. Susan) felt a second vehicle was needed as

the white Honda ages and the second vehicle gave us (i.e. Susan) more flexibility to do other things in the evening. Glen drives the Jetta and Susan drives the Honda. Glen spent a few spring and summer time evenings teaching Susan to drive the Jetta around the block in an industrial area. She drives the Jetta on the highways when we venture to Shuswap Lake, but is still hesitant driving in the city. Recently, Glen has been encouraging Susan to drive to the local grocery

store and teaching her to drive up hills. She's not bad, just some fine-tuning and practice before we tackle the nearby Boundary Road hill. Also in March, we welcomed the arrival of our new niece, Jessica Lynn Scott. Congratulations to Jim, Ellen, Zachary and Rebecca!

April was the beginning of additional construction of our cabin. Uncle Lee (with the help of Glen's dad) began with the deck construction and continued to work until the end of May to complete the insulation, dry walling and kitchen cabinets.

Glen's dad hooked up the heating (which Susan really appreciates), so now when we wake up in the mornings, we no longer shiver or dread getting out of bed. We painted the deck and stairs in June, and Susan with the help of one of her co-workers, Sabrina, faux-painted the two bedrooms. Painting of the living room and kitchen happened in August and our final painting job, that is painting the floor a dark purple, was done



*Photo of kitchen at Shuswap. The walls were painted a buttery yellow with a dark purple floor*

during Thanksgiving weekend which was the last day at Shuswap for 2002. Glen and Susan spent almost every weekend at the lake from May to August. By the end of the summer, Glen had driven over 16,000 km in the new car. Susan's mom, dad and aunt visited the cabin in May. The weekend wasn't as enjoyable as it could have been, as allergies were really bad for Susan and her mom. It was unbelievable how bad

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Susan's allergies were, she kept sneezing, her eyes were all red and she had to put ice on her eyes to keep from scratching. The weekend was spent mainly near our cabin, since the allergies weren't as bad on our lot. We spent the evenings playing mah-jongg, having a big fire and fixing our trail, as Susan's mom seemed to enjoy digging stairs on the trail. In July, Sabrina (Susan's co-worker) visited and helped paint the two bedrooms. We enjoyed watching and feeding the squirrels. Our final guests at the lake for 2002 was Dave, Miriam and William. We ventured to Albas Falls for a hike and swim. While we were driving to the Falls, we encountered a flat tire. Dave and Glen showed their manhood as they fixed the tire on the hot gravel road. Miriam and Susan were proud of their me (thank goodness for the car manual!).

As mentioned, Susan's parents visited Vancouver in May after they returned from their trip to China. We picked Susan's parents up from the airport and were driving them to Susan's Aunt's home. About 2 km before reaching her Aunt's home, we experienced our first fender bender on our new Jetta... ugggh- just two months old! While we were stopped at a red light, a new driver rear-ended us. We were all okay, just a bit shaken up and surprised. The hit felt pretty hard but when we looked at the damages, they were minimal—that is you could see the imprint of the car's license plate on our bumper, no contorted dents. A paint job seemed to fix the damage. Thank goodness for high tech bumpers in new cars.

During the summer, we joined a volleyball league through the BC Volleyball Association which was so much fun, that we joined again during the Fall season. In July, we went for a weekend trip to Calgary to celebrate Susan's dad's birthday, as well as her

brother's family's (Richard, Helen and Daniel) return to Canada. Richard and family have settled in Newmarket, Ontario. Also, in July we went to the Cher concert- her last tour... the Cher-est show on earth. It was an absolutely fabulous concert! The concert opened with Cyndi Lauper (surprisingly she looked quite normal) and continued with non-stop singing from Cher for an hour and a half. It was well worth the money to see her sing.

Throughout the summer, Glen entertained the idea of purchasing a boat in the next year or two. Little did Susan and his parents realize that he was so eager. In

August and September, Glen did his boat research and decided on a couple of brands that were of interest, a Regal, Champion and Doral. He found one Doral dealer in BC (which was located in the Kootenays) who had one 2002 boat remaining and said that he would be able to give Glen a deal since he wanted to sell all of his 2002 stock. So with Glen's eagerness, we went to Shuswap Lake on a September Friday night with his parents. On a drizzly Saturday morning we journeyed to

Captain's Village (in Magna Bay) to test drive a Regal boat- his mom spoke highly of a particular boat that she had seen 2 weeks earlier. As the boat was being towed to the water, his mom realized that wasn't the boat she wanted to test drive. Unfortunately, the boat she was interested in was sold earlier that week. We went for a drive in the boat that the salesman thought would be good for us. According to the boat connoisseurs (Glen, mom and dad), the boat drove quite well but wasn't sure how fast it could go due to the rainy weather. The price was a bit high and wasn't very negotiable, and the colour wasn't right for us. So



*Our regular cabin visitor, Sammy the Squirrel, enjoys eating peanuts.*



we said we'd think about it. We set out to the next boat dealer on Shuswap Lake, who sold Champion boats. We tried the boat and none of us liked it, so we packed into the truck and headed to Kaslo for a 6

hour drive. The drive was very scenic with a black bear, elk, mountains and lakes. We even had a bird take off from the side of the highway and fly into the truck. We're quite certain the bird didn't make it, as we looked out



*Glen & Susan in front of their new boat*

the back window and saw something big lying in the middle of the road. We arrived in Kaslo in the early evening, where we stayed at the quaint Kaslo Motel where a strange elderly lady managed the motel. As we checked in, we learned that there are no hotels in Kaslo—just motels, and all motels and hotels in Canada have a television set in the rooms. Our stay in Kaslo was enjoyable, we found the people to be... different and memorable. On the Sunday morning, we drove to Jones Boys' Boats in Ainsworth, about 20 minutes from Kaslo, located on Kootenay Lake. The lake was absolutely beautiful in the sunshine, but it was windy outside and the water was quite choppy. When the salesman arrived, he showed us the boat. The boat looked absolutely perfect—sporty with blue and white colours. We tried not to show too much excitement to the salesman before we test-drove it. The boat drove well in the

choppy water and was quiet. We weren't able to take the boat more than 35mph due to the waves, but we had to make a decision. Everything was great with the boat, the only question was how it would do at a higher speed. We hummed and hawed and decided to purchase the boat anyway. The salesman gave us a good deal and included some additional items with the boat. Jones Boys' Boats is storing the boat for us and will deliver it to us at Shuswap Lake during the Spring, which we thought was an absolutely great deal. It was noontime

and we needed to head back, as it was going to be a long drive for us to Burnaby. We arrived in Kamloops at about 6:00 pm to pick up our car, and headed back to Burnaby. It was an exciting weekend. We're all looking forward to try out the new boat come Spring.



*Susan on the Great Wall of China*

In late September, Susan and Glen took a 2-week trip to China. We took a tour which showed us the highlights of Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin, Shanghai and Hong Kong. The weather was a humid 25 degrees. We over packed with long sleeve shirts and pants as Susan's sister (whose in Beijing) said it was cold. We were fortunate that our 2 week stay was quite warm. We were the only two people on our tour so we had our own personal guide and driver, which was great. The first two days of our Beijing trip were a bit rocky as we lost our tour guide at our first tourist site—

Tian'namen Square. After about an hour, he finally found us. There was a misunderstanding of where he

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was meeting us. The second time we called our tour guide was on the Great Wall of China. He thought we were lost, but we actually weren't. We just wanted to get back onto the Great Wall as we accidentally exited the Great Wall at a different section and the people wanted to charge us again for admission. The Great Wall was absolutely fantastic. The length and steepness of the wall was amazing. We climbed the wall for about 2 hours before we accidentally

exited. For scenery, our favourite place was Guilin. The mountains were exactly like the ones you see in the traditional Chinese paintings. Guilin was less populated than the other cities with 650,000 people. This city was quite interesting.



*View of mountains on the Li River in Guilin*

Many tourists visit this city, but people (locals) kept staring at Glen. If we walked together, people would definitely stare whether riding their bike or just walking by. When Glen walked on his own, people still stared at him (not as many compared to the two of us together)- some stopped, turned around and would look at him up and down. It was quite the fascination. By the time we reached our third city, we were quite tired. The tour was full of visits to historic sites and museums. At the end of the first week, we didn't want to see anymore temples and

museums. We just wanted to go see parks and see the outdoors. Guilin was great for the outdoors. It had many mountains in which you could climb up the stairs and look at the view. Hong Kong was our overall favourite city. We did a half-day tour and the remaining 2 days we were on our own. It was very easy to get around Hong Kong. We walked the streets of Kowloon, took a photo of



*Glen riding a seal at Ocean Park in Hong Kong*

Glen in front of the Bottoms Up Club, which was a filming location of the James Bond movie-- The Man with the Golden Gun. We spent an entire day at Ocean Park, which is a cross between Disneyland and Sea World on the side of two hills overlooking the South China Sea. The trip was very memorable, as we have an album full of photos for anyone who would like to see them. Our final trip for the year was to Kamloops in mid-October for Glen's cousin's

wedding. The wedding was a very nice family reunion.

Congratulations to Leanna and Kenny! The Fall season has been relatively quiet compared to the summer. We've been going on 15km walks through out the city during the weekends, and playing volleyball. We can't believe Christmas is almost here and the weather is so mild.

This coming year, we're looking forward to riding in the new boat at Shuswap, and going for a hike on the Chilkooot Trail between BC and Alaska. \*



*Photo of our Fall volleyball team (L-R), Back Row: Rita, Glen, Angela, Shaun. Front Row: Stephen, Anna, Susan. Missing: Sabrina*



*Wishing you a joyous 2003.  
Happy Holidays!*

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