



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

December 6, 2024

Christmas and New Year greetings to all.

2024 was an unremarkable year for us, which is good at our age because it means there have been no exciting health challenges. We still wear masks when we go anywhere it might be crowded, although we ate out at restaurants for our birthdays and 57th anniversary and several Friday lunches.

We gathered at Heather and Steve's along with Alex, Dan, Janelle, Brad and Steve's dad Bernie on Christmas day. We had the fun experience of driving home in a snowstorm – not a common event here on the island.

For birthdays and a “back to school” visit this year we gathered with most of the same group at various restaurants in Courtenay, Qualicum Beach, Deep Bay, Royston, and Comox. Mother's Day was in our back yard. Dan's birthday and [Thanksgiving](#) were at Bernie's house. Alex spent the entire summer as a leader at the Cadet Camp in Vernon. He is also in the Cadet pipe band and is getting quite good on the bagpipes.

The furthest we've been from home is a couple of trips each to Parksville and Campbell River for shopping and optometrist appointments.

We are still mostly occupied with our hobbies. Allan works with his collection of [Raspberry Pi](#) computers that control or display several things around the house. There is a weather station that records temperature, BP, RH, and wind speed. It also controls turning the hummingbird feeder heater on and off in cold weather. Another station runs the fans that keep our cold room cool. Sheila monitors rainfall with an old-fashioned glass tube. There was also a motion detecting camera in use for a while. It was intended for bird watching but ended up just watching our street out front.

For woodworking over several weeks Allan added curved lattice to the corner of the [new fence](#) we had built last year, then decorative lattice to the top at the front, and more lattice for our climbing hydrangea to climb on at the side. There is also a new bird feeder and a nice handle to replace the rubber one that disintegrated after many years of use on our ice [cream scoop](#).

Sheila kept busy as usual with [knitting and weaving](#) projects and the events of two guilds. She made several new scarves, some bags to donate to charity, a vest, and some tea towels. She even had an [article published](#) in The Guild of Canadian Weavers Bulletin. She

also wove yardage for the Qualicum guild to cut up and submit as [samples](#) in the GCW Bulletin next year.

Sheila continued to weed at the [Anderton community garden](#). It is a pleasure to work there because there is something in bloom all season but getting up and down to weed is getting hard on aging joints.



Flowers started appearing in our yard with the crocuses in February and have continued all year. We grew some strawberries, asparagus, lettuce, onions, garlic, peas, tomatoes and cucumbers in two raised beds and a few hanging pots. There is always weeding to do in the flower beds around the yard. This summer we had most of the [grass removed](#) from the front yard and replaced with mulch. There is just a ring of grass around the edges so the students who walk across the front on their way to school still have a place to walk. We added three new roses and plan to add more next summer.

We had snow twice in January and again in March, but otherwise it was rainy January through March. Then, like last year, we had so little rain April through August that we were in "extreme" drought again. Fortunately, there were no forest fires near us. The rain returned in September and in November almost one-third of the year's rain fell - 344 mm (13.5 inches) in one month!

Cats Shadow and Charlie are healthy and enjoy life indoors. We are well trained in providing their desired treats and cuddles.



Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2025!



This is a 'pano' picture, taken by Heather,
May 5th. at Deep Bay

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