2025 Christmas News from the Brows

Email Gord - gbrow@basicbusiness.com
Email Marilyn - marylebones@shaw.ca
Home Phone - 604-538-1943
www.browfamily.ca

Remembering Paige

This year marks the 3rd anniversary of our daughter passing on November 11, 2022. Each Remembrance Day celebration holds special meaning to us as we also take time to remember Paige and cherish the years we spent together. We miss her deeply and often reflect on the years that were stolen after her death at the early age of 56. As our circle of friends grows smaller, we feel fortunate to have shared in her childhood, youth, and maturity. Though we didn't get to walk with her into old age—a chapter less lively, perhaps—we treasure the vibrant years we had together and the two wonderful sons that she left behind.

60th Wedding Anniversary

We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on February 12th with a trip to Victoria, staying in a spacious, harbor-view suite at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. The weather was perfect—a stark contrast to our sub-zero wedding day in Plentywood, Montana, in 1965. Though expensive, the Empress's unmatched service and the delicious, ceremonial High Tea were well worth it. The room at the Empress was far more comfortable than the one we had at the no-tell motel back in 1965—though, to be fair, ambience wasn't exactly top of mind back then either.

Our grandson Mathew , who lives on the island with his partner, Caitlyn, picked us up at the hotel and treated us to a celebratory dinner at the fantastic Italian restaurant Il Terrazzo. The next morning, Mathew was working so we drove to their townhouse to visit with Caitlyn and their new dog, Boo, a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever. They are talking about having kids one day but, for the now, Boo will be our grand-DOG.

In early October, we drove to Harrison Hot Springs for a change of routine. While the weather was nowhere near as pleasant as Palm Desert, it was a nice break from the old routine. We enjoyed the vintage charm of the Copper Room, where a small band played "legacy tunes" for the mostly senior crowd. We enjoyed watching the seniors trot their stuff on the dance floor. We were passionate about it once but now enjoy it from the sidelines.

Cruise to Hawaii and Back

We are now beyond climbing on an aircraft to travel anywhere so opted to take a break in April and go on a cruise to Hawaii. Leaving from Vancouver, we sailed to Hilo, Maui, Honolulu, Kona and Kauai, then sailed all the way back to Vancouver. Using Uber to take us to and from the port of Vancouver made traveling for us much easier. Upon arriving in Hawaii, it was somewhat disheartening to find that the ship docked at industrial ports on each island, well removed from any attractions and too far to explore on foot. Ship tours were available but we had been to all of those places in the past so we just stayed on board and enjoyed the warm weather from the comfort of our balcony. Marilyn never left the ship and Gord disembarked only once.

The cruise should have been billed as a Seniors' Tour, it even felt like a senior citizen's home. We are no spring chickens either but the crowd moved even more slowly than we did. There were so many mobility devices on board that they had set up valet parking in the dining room. A guest would roll up to their table and take a seat then, the waiter would ride the scooter back to a designated parking area. It was eighteen days of elegant dining and our greatest form of entertainment was not in the show lounge but, rather, viewing the guests attack the buffet. Our cruise to Alaska last year with grandsons, Ben and Mathew and their partners on a Princess medallion cruise, was a lot more fun. Princess's use of the medallion touchless technology made it easy to track the rest of the family on the ship. Also, the medallion was employed to pay for everything without it being handled by anyone. Holland America, on the other hand used ID cards which were much less sanitary. Despite having paid for all gratuities in advance, we were disappointed that there was someone with their hand out at every turn. It was our 23th cruise and probably our last on a ship that size. If we do another cruise at all, we will pay the premium and sail on a smaller ship.

Stolen Car

In our last Christmas letter, we reported the theft of our beloved Toyota 4Runner, along with Gord's phone, wallet and clothes from his locker at the local swimming pool. As reported last year, we were able to quickly determine the location of the vehicle from Marilyn's phone but, despite the fact that it was immediately reported to the RCMP, they took no steps to pursue it. The next time we heard from them was exactly one year later when they phoned us to let us know that they had located the vehicle and that we should contact ICBC to let them know that it had been found in Abbotsford. Why they contacted us is still a mystery since we no longer owned the vehicle.

Grandsons Ben & Mathew

Ben and Mathew are doing well. On a professional level, Ben is still working on German vehicles like Audi and Porsche at Turn3 Autosport. When he's not working on his own vehicles, he's out somewhere in the wilderness with his 4Wheeling buddies and his partner, Tasia. They live in Surrey not far from us. Mathew has signed up for another 4 years with the Navy as an Information Systems Technician (SYSop). He and his partner, Caitlyn, who is a registered nurse, are living in View Royal near Victoria on Vancouver Island. He is scheduled to be away on a few short training sails soon and, in January, will sail to Hawaii for two months of joint exercises with the U.S. Navy. One of the benefits is that the Navy will either fly Caitlyn to Hawaii for a visit or fly Mathew home for a short visit. Shouldn't be a hard decision to make.
.