



**Peter Reimer 1915 – 2007**

**Comments from his Blog**

# REIMER REASON

I'M HOPING THIS BLOG WILL HELP TO KEEP FAMILY AND FRIENDS UP TO DATE REGARDING THE SITUATION WITH MUM AND DAD. I WILL POST NEWS AS QUICKLY AS I CAN. IF YOU ADD COMMENTS I WILL MAKE SURE THAT THEY GET TO MUM AND DAD. ALTERNATELY YOU CAN E-MAIL ME AT [BILL.REIMER@CONCORDIA.CA](mailto:BILL.REIMER@CONCORDIA.CA)

**Saturday, June 2, 2007**  
**A Bit of Background**

Early this year Dad was diagnosed with bladder cancer. As you probably know, when Dad sees a problem, he figures out what is wrong, makes a plan, and proceeds to fix it. This is what he did for many weeks as he gathered information and explored his options with his family doctor and social workers. In the end he came up with a plan which he considered the best under the circumstances - he would starve the cancer. He was fully aware of the side effects of his rather radical treatment, but he felt that they were better than having to live in constant pain as he had done over the last six or so years.

Mum and Dad were hoping to stay at home as long as they could. For the past few months they have been well supported by the health services – receiving a regular stream of doctors, cleaners, home care workers, and even spiritual counselors. I have been very comforted by the attentive and sympathetic support they have both received over this time.

Last week, however, the health workers suggested that Dad should be moved to a hospice. He had become very weak after a month without food and it was becoming too difficult for Mum to move him to avoid pressure sores and help him get around the apartment. Dad agreed, so they put his name on a list – waiting for a bed in a hospice near Marpole.

Yesterday a room became available (although not the first choice on their list) so they decided to move Dad while the opportunity was there. Both Dad and Mum were moved to the St. James Cottage Hospice.

## **Saturday, June 2, 2007**

### **First Day at the Hospice**

I went to see Dad and Mum in their new digs today. It was a beautiful sunny morning. The mountains on the North Shore stood out clearly against the blue sky and the lions glistened white with the remaining snow. The hospice was equally delightful. It was a small structure surrounded by lovely gardens and set in the middle of a large park.



I found Dad and Mum in a small room with a bed and 'Easy-boy' chair when I arrived. Since they had been whisked off on an emergency basis to the hospice, they had not even had time to explore the facilities.

The staff found a wheelchair for Dad and with their help we set him up in the chair, found a walker for Mum, and then set off on a tour. The place is gorgeous. It is a small cottage set on the north sloping hill overlooking Burrard inlet. It includes three common rooms: one with glass covering the front and ceiling showing the lovely north-shore mountains. The second has a fireplace, piano, games, dining table, and big-screen TV. There was even a guitar sitting on its stand by the piano ready for JP when he arrives. The third is a solarium designated for smokers, with easy chairs and another fireplace. All three rooms have lovely outdoor patios associated with them.

On one side of the building are the mountains, on the other a green grass dog run, and on the third a children's playground with all of the slides, climbing apparatus and bouncing contraptions that could keep our grandchildren busy for hours.

By the time we finished the tour, Dad was totally thrilled. He expressed a number of times how different it was from the type of facility he envisaged. It was not like a hospital as he had imagined, nor was it full of people coming and going, busy with activities and crises. Instead, he said, it was very "informal".

I spent considerable time with the staff and came away feeling that their attitudes toward the residents and visitors matched the relaxed feel of the hospice. They assured me that it was fine for Mum to stay overnight and that they should feel free to bring personal items and special foods if they wished. Basically, they encouraged Mum and Dad to treat the facilities as their own.

Mum and I had to take a trip back to 72<sup>nd</sup> and Montcalm to pick up a few more things for their stay. I asked Dad where he wanted to sit, and he chose a spot in the sunshine looking out the windows toward the Lions. When we got back to the hospice about 3 hours later, Dad was still in his chair and proudly reported that

he had wheeled himself all around the facilities (including outside), refusing offers of help from the staff. The staff were equally impressed with his enthusiasm.

Mom is hoping that she can stay overnight and spent the days back at the apartment if possible. This means I will pick her up in the morning and bring her back in the evening when I can. She said that Dad wakes periodically during the night so she wants to be at his side during these times. The hospice staff are fine with this arrangement.

There are no set visiting hours at the hospice and they are open to people joining Dad and Mum for a meal. The hospice provides breakfast, a large lunch, and a light supper. Visitors are welcome but they charge five dollars per visitor did they require a meal and notification by 9:30 AM if someone is coming for lunch.

Kids are fine as well – but I expect they will be too interested in playing in the park to hang out at the hospice. They have many games in the living room, however, so there are options when it rains as well.

The telephone number for the hospice is (604) 606-0442. This number can be directed to Dad and Mum's room. They have another number to contact the staff (to order lunch, for example). It is (604) 606-0440.

The hospice address is the St. James Cottage Hospice, 650 N Penticton St., Vancouver BC, V5K 3L8. I find it easiest to head north on Nanaimo, turn east onto McGill (Nanaimo forces you in this direction), then turn north on Penticton.

I will be in town staying at Fran's Mother's house for as long as I am required. You can contact me there at (604) 263-4552.

### **June 3, 2007 A Garden Visit**

I arrived at the hospice this morning and found Mum and Dad sitting outside by the walkway – Mum on a bench in the garden and Dad on a wheelchair beside her. It was a lovely day with different groups of kids making good use of the swings in the playground, the occasional dog racing across the dog run after a bouncing ball, a very demanding crow in the trees above us, and a bright yellow butterfly that hung around like the place was his (hers?). I took a photo, but by the time I had retrieved my camera, Dad had taken off around the corner to check out the VW Westphalia that was parked in the lot.



Mum said that Dad spent a very restless night – and it was only after the staff gave him some medication that he calmed down. She said that in the morning he was seduced to have some nourishment, however, since they offered him a milk shake. “He has always had a weakness for milkshakes.” she added. By the time I got there, he was adamant that he would not eat, however, and considered the milkshake only a momentary weakness.

The person who decided that the hospice should be located in a park was brilliant! We spend several quiet hours watching the action around us while the sounds of children, dogs, crows, and cyclists provided a welcome background to our chats.

Dad says that his pain is reasonably well controlled, but it is his anxiety that causes him the greatest challenge at the moment. Since this occurs mostly at night, Mum has chosen to stay with him during this period. The staff are supportive of this arrangement and will adjust his medication somewhat tonight to see if his concerns can be managed a bit better.

Thank you all for the lovely comments and best wishes, I will pass them on to Dad and Mum each time I visit. I know that they appreciate the concern and are strengthened by the good wishes.

#### **Comments to the blog:**

Hi Dad and Mom. My how things have changed since our chat the other evening. We hope Dad is comfortable in his new surroundings and that he isn't in alot of pain. We were just chatting about when we had our visit in March and having apple pie and ice cream with Grandpa and the great conversations we had the last day of our visit and how Peter and Brad chuckled about some of the funny things they have done in the shop and Grandpa was humored also. Our thoughts are with you and isn't is wonderful Mom that you can spend the nights there with Dad. Andrea, Brad, Peter, Deb and I send tons of hugs and our love to you both. Love Bob.

9:20 PM

Hi Grandpa and Grandma...glad to know that you are settling in at the cottage ok. The kids and I had a great weekend in Kelowna. They loved the new house and Chris was glad to be settling in. I have physio and lawyer appointments today, but will be in to visit you tomorrow. Love you lots!! Hugs and kisses to you both...have a great day!! love jacquie

9:04 AM

Hi UP and AL and you too Bill,  
Glad to hear that the cottage is a nice place and that they are figuring out the medication to help UP settle in a bit.  
Kerry and I are almost ready for our Half Iron Man June 17th and I am looking forward to the not training part after. We will spend a week exploring the Washington Coast after the race.  
Our thoughts are with you. Kerry remembers lovingly the great grandpa on the scooter who shared his ride with the boys. He knew how special it was for them to try such a cool "machine"  
You both are so special to me and so many of my great childhood memories are filled with you both.  
Love Jo-Ann  
7:22 PM

Hi Bill,  
Thanks for the update. Mom spoke with Auntie Lil last week so we had you all in our thoughts.  
My Mom's new e-mail address is tdumville@shaw.ca. I forwarded the message to her so she has the bolgspot.  
Thanks again  
Jo-Ann

Hi Uncle Bill - Thanks for the info! - pretty fancy blog but thought I'd send a note this way! It sounds very nice there and it is great Grandma can see him! Everyone is thinking of them and are thankful you are there too - every family member's thought, phone call, help in person, letter, etc means so much. Even if we are further away now, we think of them every day and are so thankful we lived in Vancouver near them as long as we did!

Grandpa and Grandma, we love you and send our love - give "pa" a big hug from us! My Mom send her thoughts too. We think of you every day and are glad you are in a good place - seeing each other as much as you can. We love you!

Shelley, Cam, Alison and Sara

Hey there Pops,

Well we made it to Calgary. We arrived last night. The drive through the prairies was great. It was made especially great thanks to the stories you had Grandma write down for us. We were driving through the country that all these events happened. There were quite a few stories I had never heard. I did most of the driving and Lies read the stories out loud. IT was great for her because she learned as much as I did about our history. You know your parents share a pretty amazing love for each other...The stories inspired a song. Here are the lyrics but you'll have to wait to hear the music. Please pass on my love to Grandma and grandpa. Let her know how much I enjoyed the stories.

She Left Her Heart In Regina

She could hear that whistlin' down the hall  
She could hear it's call, she could  
hear it's call Taking her back to the dance hall  
Where they were twisting  
and turning and falling in love to the songs

She could feel what was to come  
When she left her heart in Regina the first time she left him for home

Chorus:

She might only be away for a moment  
But he could feel the space left behind  
they might only be apart for a moment  
But it was too long, It was far too long

Over the ocean and onto the sea  
Riding the waves on the Algonquin to help set people free  
Left his love and his family behind  
When he finally got home they'd be together to share  
their life

Chorus:

He might only be away for a moment  
But she could feel the space left behind  
They might only be apart for a  
moment But it was too long, It was far too long

Now as his breath reaches the end  
They just have to look in their eyes and they're back in that dance hall again  
This love will never end  
They'll just be apart for a little while then they'll be dancing again

Chorus:

They might only be apart for a moment  
But they can feel the space left behind  
They might only be apart for a moment  
But it was too long, It was far too long

Love to you all  
Lies and JP

Thanks so much for your information about your Mom and Dad. Your Mom had called me last week to say hello but she hadn't mentioned all the happenings.

Jo-Ann called me after your message and I had not received it because I have a new address < [tdumville@shaw.ca](mailto:tdumville@shaw.ca) > Jo-ann forwarded me on your message so I now have it here for ready access. So glad you can be here for them. It was wonderful they could stay at home so long and support each other like they always have. Such a SPECIAL COUPLE !!!!!

With Love Thelma.

**June 4, 2007**

### **Life in the Western Rain Forest**

Today was very different than yesterday. Instead of sunshine we had rain, instead of a visit in the garden, we visited by Dad's bedside, and instead of him rolling around in a wheelchair, he slept most of the time – occasionally awakening to find out who was there and assure us that he was okay before falling asleep again.



He seems to be very comfortable and we get very good support from the medical staff and volunteers. We enjoyed the smell of home-made chocolate chip cookies that the 'Activities' person cooked up for afternoon tea and the sounds of her playing the guitar later in the day.



I took in a copy of your comments for Mum to read. She enjoys hearing from you and takes the time to read them through a number of times to ensure that she hasn't missed anything.

**Comments to the blog:**

Hi Grandma and Grandpa - thinking of you and am very happy Grandpa seems to be in good place. Sara had soccer tonight and had her first piano recital yesterday - we even got a dress on her! Alison and all of us send hugs.

XOXO

Shelley, Cam, Alison and Sara

9:49 PM

Hello there, This is JP and I'm still having a nice time at my in-laws in Calgary. I went to play in a golf tournament yesterday in Kananaskis. It was beautiful. It was a clear day and the little bits of snow left on the mountains sparkled in the sunshine. On our drive up we saw a moose and some mountain goats. This is quite a wonderful country we live in.

Tonight there is a party at the Verhoeff's where Lies and I will announce her "interesting condition" to the family. IT will no doubt be a huge celebration as this will be the first granchild/great grandchild/neice/nephew.

We head to Vancouver on Saturday. Much love to you all.

JP&Lies

8:52AM

Firstly, Thank you, Bill, for maintaining this blogsite which will keeps us up to date and which allows us to communicate so easily with your Mom and Dad. Also to say how thankful we are that you are in Vancouver and can supply the support and mobility that allows your Mom to visit and stay with your Dad.

Hi Lilian and Peter: We are so happy that you were able to find such a lovely and caring hospice. (or that circumstances found it for you). Bill's description of you both sitting in the park in the morning sunshine sounded idyllic to me who was standing in my living room window watching the dreary rain and trying to be happy because the lawn was being watered. I never could quite have our mother's appreciation of rain and her well remembered

expression "It's raining nicely today"

I hope you had a good night, Peter. I'll probably hear later today when we catch up with our 3 hour time difference. Bye for now, and love. Clifford

P.S. Congratulations, JP! CD

10:45 AM

Dear Bill, Lily and Peter: I will try again and see if this gets through. All is well here but it's getting a bit warm however we've had some lovely weather so can't complain. It is good to get Bill's blogs and read the comments. He gave me some instructions so we'll see if this goes through. I'm glad that you, Lil and Peter are in a lovely caring place and that Bill is in Vancouver to see that all your needs are met. Love, Lorraine

12:54 PM

Hello there, This is JP and I'm still having a nice time at my in-laws in Calgary. I went to play in a golf tournament yesterday in Kananaskis. It was beautiful. It was a clear day and the little bits of snow left on the mountains sparkled in the sunshine. On our drive up we saw a moose and some mountain goats. This is quite a wonderful country we live in.

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Our thoughts are with you. Kerry remembers lovingly the great grandpa on the scooter who shared his ride with the boys. He knew how special it was for them to try such a cool "machine"

You both are so special to me and so many of my great childhood memories are filled with you both.

Love Jo-Ann

Hi Bill:

The connection finally works! We were very pleased to hook up to your site today and get the latest news. We're glad your family respects your Dad's wishes to try his own remedy. We're also glad that the weather has been so beautiful up there recently. Our love to all.

Rick and Heather

Hi Bill: Thank you very much for your email and for the blogsite, I will put a comment there later today when there will probably be a new entry,

I was so very pleased to learn that you will be with Lilian and Peter as long as needed. I think Elaine and Ralph have done an excellent job of looking after their welfare, but now that Peter has entered the hospice stage, they need more on-site and personal care that only you can provide.

I know from personal experience that Lilian's needs will not diminish with the funeral, and likely increase for a period of time. I hope that you will be able to arrange your affairs to cover that period as well.

All our heart will be with Peter, Lilian, you and the rest of the family during these difficult times. God bless.

Clifford

Hi Bill

What a wonderful thing that you can be there. I really appreciate being able to read your blog. The hospice sounds like such an accomodating and pleasant environment. Complete with the sounds of children playing and birds singing! They will both love that. I remember listening to a tape of various bird calls and singing that they had recorded on their travels - I think perhaps it was Saskatchewan.

Please give Aunt Lil and Uncle Peter my love. ox I am currently in Fredericton playing with my delightful sweet little grandson (Khodi 15 months) while Amanda & Ros are in Paris for a 10 day holiday.

Love, Diane

Hi Grandpa and Grandma...glad to know that you are settling in at the cottage ok. The kids and I had a great weekend in Kelowna. They loved the new house and Chris was glad to be settling in. I have physio and lawyer appointments today, but will be in to visit you tomorrow. Love you lots!! Hugs and kisses to you both...have a great day!! love jacquie

## **June 5, 2007 Rejuvenation**

I stayed overnight at the hospice since I was concerned about things with Mum and Dad. About 8:00 AM I checked in on them and found Dad awake. He immediately asked me to help him out of bed and into his wheelchair. We got him into the chair, bundled him up and wheeled him to his favorite place – in front of the fireplace where he can look out the window at Burrard Inlet, the freighters loading from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool grain elevators, the North Shore mountains, and the Lions standing tall above them all. The low-hanging clouds and grey skies require some patience if you insist on seeing the Lions, but you will be periodically rewarded with a lovely view of them emerging from the mist – a real West Coast treat.



The hospice staff served up a warm bowl of porridge for Mum and I headed off to my errands with Dad warming his toes before the fire.

### Comments to the blog:

Hi Lilian and Peter;

Glad to hear that you had a good night, Peter. Here is your smile for the day:

Randy and Jodi, former owner of THE cats and now a dog lover stopped in for a little while a day or two ago. In tow her two teacup sized dogs plus two others she was "dog-sitting". Of course, as soon as the dogs hit the floor they detected the cats and all 4 pelted along the trail, all going " Yip, Yip, Yip"

The cats, never having faced a hostile human or animal before, reacted in horror. They left the ground with back hairs erect and tail hairs straight out, and on landing scooted off like rockets headed for the basement, with the pack in hot pursuit. Fortunately I was close enough to close the basement door between them or we might have had clawed dogs or chewed cats.

After they left and I opened he basement door, the two cats emerged like they were entering a jungle, a timid step at a time, peering left and right, and prepared to retreat if confronted.

After they explored the whole house and confirmed that the enemy had left, they resumed heir normal friendly persona. No harm done, but I wager that the next time dogs come to call, the cats won't wait for them to enter..... They will be long gone into hiding in their basement lair until the coast is clear.

Have a good night. Clifford

1:18 PM

Hey there,

I had a nice weekend alone, with the kids and Steve at their various Scout/Guide camps. I was busy, with work and running part of the Easter Seals 24-hour relay, but it was good.

I'm glad you're settling in, and that the staff is so nice - Fran said Bill got to chat with some of there, since they remembered June.

Zachary's football team came from behind to win their playoff game, so he has a last one this Sunday, for the Silver Cup. He enjoys it enough, he says, to play again next year!

The three of them are going to be skipping in the Heart and Stroke

Fundraiser with their school again. They've got to skip and do some routines. I decided to knuckle down and do the Victoria 1/2 marathon in October. I'm set for an 8k run on the 17th, and will work that into my training. I'd been debating the 1/2 for awhile, but decided to go ahead with it.

Lots of love to you XXOO Daegan

2:23 PM

Hi Grandma and Grandpa!

I have been checking up on uncle bill's webpage to get updates on how you both are doing and Im glad to hear that the hospice is nice and comforting for both of you! I have been working full time at the grocery store still and getting used to living with 2 brothers again after having a nice quiet place in kelowna on my own. I went camping this past weekend and got quite the sunburn but it is starting to heal and hopefully will go into a nice tan...haha..Well just thought Id say hello and send my best wishes to you both! Lots of love to you both!! xoxoxox -Andrea

7:27 PM

Hi Grandma and Grandpa...I enjoyed my visit with you today!! Once I got home and had dinner, Harrison and Jen came over to celebrate his fifth birthday!! He was so excited!! We had ice cream cake, tell grandpa we were talking about how he liked it too, and they Harrison opened his gifts. Each gift he opened he said "oh my!" It was so cute!!

Britney, Daven and Ashley all got goodie bags from Jen, so everyone went to sleep feeling like a party had gone on.

Chris is enjoying the new house. He said it rained all day in Kelowna, the first full day of rain he'd experienced there in a couple of months. The trees will be glad for the drink and it should help keep the fire hazard down for a bit.

Hope you had a restful night...love you lots!! See you Thursday. Love Jacquie  
xoxoxo...

10:43 PM

Hi Aunt Lil, Uncle Peter, and Bill  
A big hello from Diane. ox

I am so enjoying the blog entries as well as the photos. The story telling sounds fabulous - I love stories! We attempted to get dad to record his stories onto a cassette tape years ago but he wasn't comfortable with the microphone. I especially loved all the "farm stories" - from stamps being stuck all over Great Grandpa Dumville's car to tales of snow blizzards requiring a rope "lead" tied between and house and the barn.

I am home now from Fredericton. I had such a wonderful 10 days with Khodi. Amanda & Ros had a great time in Paris - so much so that they felt it even exceeded their enthusiastic expectations. But my arms are now empty and I'm a little bit sad (Christmas seems a long time away) but my heart is bursting with precious memories and I have an entire 2 GB digital memory card full of photos and video clips. And I am happy to be back home to my very patient and tolerant hubby. He finds my baby-craziness rather amusing.

Kara is blossoming with grand-baby #2. September is fast approaching and we are so eager to meet & greet Baby Lefurgy! You can imagine my blissful joy with the coming of a Chilliwack grand-baby. It is so nice that the school year is winding up and Kara will soon be able to relax and enjoy baby preparations and shopping.

Trevor is enjoying the university course he is taking this term. It is based on Propaganda & the Media and he quite enthusiastic about it.

Sending greetings and love,  
Diane  
1:50 PM

Hi Bill: Val and Kay Pestyk have known of the general health problems of your Mom and Dad for some time, and since Since your email which notified us of the hospice was addressed to 'relatives and friends', I did forward it to and their son Terry. Their email address is <val@pestyk.com> if you would like it. Trevor doen't have a computer but I phoned him and passed the news to him.

Just now, while I was typing this email, a reply came in from Kay and Val. They read the blogs but didn't say whether they has entered any comment or not. I will paste it into this email so you can read it yourself.

Bye for now and thanks for getting in touch.

Love Clifford

## **June 6, 2007 Butter and Cream**

When I arrived at the hospice this morning, I found Mum and Dad at the table in the solarium. Dad was in his wheelchair and Mum was just finishing a snack. Her big news was that Dad had had some noodle soup, ice cream, and a couple of pieces of fruit. At some point the previous evening he had simply declared "This not eating is silly!" and proceeded to accept the nurse's invitation. Go figure!



The cook pointed out how much fun it is to prepare meals for the patients here since she doesn't have to worry about lowering the cholesterol content – and there is nothing like butter and cream to make things extra tasty. Her only concern, she says is making the food appealing – 'comfort food' is her objective. It seems to work for Dad.

The news that Dad was eating had spread around the hospice, of course – since Dad and Mum seem to have taken on the role of minor celebrities. Their concern and attention for each other – and the many years they represent have charmed the staff and volunteers.

All the extra activity of the morning seemed to tire Dad out, though, so he asked to be taken to bed. Once he was away, I got into a lengthy discussion with one of the volunteers and by the time we finished, Dad was asking to get up again. We got him in his chair and set off for a roll (Mum says it's not a 'stroll' since that term is reserved for Fran's research) then ended up in his favorite spot in front of the fire (see the photo). He gets to watch the mountains, the park activity, and even the parade of ants across the window sill as they carry their meal from the weeping plant by the fire back to their nest.

We were delighted when the 'Activities Coordinator' came in with her guitar and spent some time singing. I was inspired to grab a couple of spoons from the kitchen and join in. I'm practicing for JP's arrival on Sunday.



### Comments to the blog:

Just wanted to say Good Morning UP and AL, and Bill.

I am so pleased to read of your daily progress and know that you are in such good hands.

I am off to the pool on my way to work now. I had dinner with Heather last night and helped her feed and water the horses. Here is a brief "Dumville" girls update for you....

Diane is out in Fredrickton (babysitting Khodi)while Amanda and Roz are in Paris. Debra and Brian are in the Rockies for 2 weeks enjoying the rain!

Love Jo-Ann

5:36 AM

**June 7, 2007**

### **Every Wheelchair Needs a Crescent Wrench**

I arrived in the early afternoon when Dad was busy with his post-lunch sleep. He woke up soon after Mum and I got chatting and asked to get into his wheelchair. The nurse and I helped him in and I got him into his flannel jacket to keep him warm. Once he was settled in his chair he proceeded to rummage in his pocket – eventually pulling out a shiny silver crescent wrench.



It seemed very appropriate, even in that setting, that Dad should have a crescent wrench in his pocket – Mr. Fix-it is always ready for action!

Before heading out on a roll-around, Dad made quick work of some stewed fruit and lemon tart left over from lunch. It was lovely to see him eating again even though each bite was hard work for him since he is so weak.

We checked out the 'living room' today since there was some movie action out in the park on that side of the hospice. An actor was sitting on a park bench surrounded by reflectors, microphones, make-up people, camera operators, and of course the inevitable assistant with the clap-board. Dad and I checked out the action for a long time before we saw Jacquie walk across our field of vision with Britney's new dog (Jasper) in her arms. It was a wonderful surprise.

Britney and Devon were a short distance behind her so I ran to the side door to invite them in. It didn't take long before we were outside again, however, since Devon had a Frisbee and Jasper was intensely curious about the many smells she found on the dog run. You can see from the photo that Devon made great

use of the Frisbee – ensuring I got as much exercise as the dogs. With all the throwing, running, retrieving from trees, sniffing, movie gawking, guitar-playing, piano-playing, and visiting, the afternoon went by very quickly. We knew when work-time was over since the dog run filled up with animals of all shapes and sizes (as well as owners).

Dad and Mum were called for dinner, so Britney made good use of the time by finishing some of her school assignments while Devon and I checked out the telescope and binoculars in the solarium. After Dad and Mum were finished, they returned to the TV room for some final goodbyes before we headed off. The whole afternoon had the flavour of a nice family visit at home.

### **Comments to the blog:**

I have a few minutes before I head off for my Friday morning 5 km walk. It is a lovely cool sunny day here today but the weather man is threatening storms are on their way.

Great to hear that you are enjoying your milk shakes and fruit, Peter. Me too.

Valerie and Neil arrived in town yesterday and we are looking forward to dinner with them at Lawrence and Colleens' tonight. They won't be here long because Neil has just graduated from BCIT and will be starting a new job with BC Hydro next week

Take care, Lil and Pete, and God Bless. Clifford

6:47 AM

Hello to Lil, Peter and Bill.

I watch each evening for your wonderful updates Bill. The write ups are so interesting and the home is so comfy.

Please give my love to Lil and Peter and tell them they are in our thoughts and prayers.

This is Thurs. evening. I went to the eye clinic at the hospital at 10.00 [I really enjoy the contact with the patients and I do paper work for the nurse.]. Then I did my three hour shift at the gift shop. This evening I had my friend Lil over from her assisted living home for our weekly game of hand and foot. We keep a running total and start a new game when one of us reach 20,000 .We have enjoyed many hands of it haven't we Lil?

With Love

Thelma...

**June 8, 2007**

**“Connecting the dots” – once again**

Just after my breakfast this morning I received a call from a hospice nurse informing me that Mum woke up quite confused. She seemed not to know where she was, had difficulty identifying some of the items around her, and was at a loss regarding the identities of the people and why they were there (except for Dad, of course).



I drove immediately to the hospice and was greeted by her enthusiastic welcome. She clearly had no trouble identifying Dad and me. After several phone calls, messages, and discussions with the doctor and staff we decided that her relapse was most likely due to the stress and confusion of the last week. We put a plan in place to manage the situation so that Mum and Dad need not be separated. Once it became clear to the staff that Mum understood her condition and was actively working to “put the pieces back together”, they were able to accept her continued presence in the hospice without it becoming too much of a burden. After all, their patient is Dad, and not Mum. They have been extremely generous to include Mum in the hospice supports and I am very aware that this generosity is beyond their formal requirements.

I pulled out the printed versions of the blog entries from the last week along with the many e-mails that you have sent – and was delighted to find that Mum used to these materials to anchor herself in the hospice and the world. She carefully read through each entry and would often ask me for confirmation that these things really happened. I was pleased to see how she paid attention to the stories of your daily activities and exploits of your family members as a way to reconnect her memories. It seems to bring her special comfort to hear about and imagine the activities of your children.

We spent much of the day exploring the hospice and once again verifying what she had learned over the last week. In fact, it was a good test of my own comprehension as we tried to attach names to faces, history to rooms and objects, and generally re-orient ourselves to the surroundings. By the time I left in the evening she remained somewhat confused but seemed to be at ease with the condition since she was able to identify the key ingredients. The center of those ingredients, of course, was Dad.

Dad has remained largely oblivious to this new development. He was in bed when I arrived and soon after asked to go for a ride. We went through the slow process of getting him into a wheelchair and headed out for a look at the solarium and living room space. He looked even weaker than yesterday so when he finally settled in by the large screen TV we used a couple of small pillows on his lap to

prop him up so that he could alternately nap, change channels, and check out the TV programs.

While he watched TV Mum finished off an enormous lunch – even though she had previously refused on the grounds that she wasn't hungry. Dad, on the other hand, showed little interest in eating. After lunch, however, he asked to go outside, so I took him to the front of the hospice where a volunteer was busy repairing a rose trellis that had fallen down in the latest windstorm. We had a lovely chat about gardens, windstorms, Winnipeg, Montreal, volunteer work, and numerous other topics. Dad appeared somewhat interested in the activities but occasionally he would drift off. I returned him to the hospice when he got chilly and the nurses proceeded to replace the dressings on his heels.

I left just after Mum had finished off another full dinner and Dad was once again sound asleep in his bed. The nurses were planning to bring in a cot for Mum tonight to see if this would improve her chances of getting a good night's rest. As I have now learned we will simply see what tomorrow brings.

#### **Comments to the blog:**

Hi Grandma and Grandpa!!

Today has has been a 'catch up' day around home. Laundry, cleaning, etc. Britney finished her homework and Daven had a sleepover at his friend's last night and hasn't come home yet...they went to a hockey game! I will make dinner soon and then we will watch a movie later.

Tomorrow the kids and I will be by for another visit...and Jasper too since she is allowed.

I hope you sleep well tonight, you are both such troopers!

Love you lots and lots...Jacquie  
4:57 PM

I thought I might send a visual aid to help.

Here is a picture of Kerry and I taken at a restaurant in Kelowna after the Okanagan Marathon in Oct '05. I am sure it is the first shot I sent out of us but I am not sure if I sent it to UP and AL.

Love Jo-Ann

Oops sorry, I do not always write very clearly.

First of all Kerry is my significant other who braved the last family picnic with Uncle Peter, Aunt Lil, and all. At that same picnic Uncle Peter (the great grandpa I was refering to) let the boys ride his motorized scooter. He was very adamant that



they should try and Robert's boys were on it. Kerry was impressed with all the love at the picnic but particularly about Uncle's Peter's connection to kids.

Kerry has been around for a few years now so I am sure Aunt Lil has read the name on my e-mails. He lives here with me and so she probably just got the Kerry and Terry mixed up.

Hope your day went well.

Love Jo-Ann

I have a few minutes before I head off for my Friday morning 5 km walk. It is a lovely cool sunny day here today but the weather man is threatening storms are on their way.

Great to hear that you are enjoying your milk shakes and fruit, Peter. Me too.

Valerie and Neil arrived in town yesterday and we are looking forward to dinner with them at Lawrence and Colleens' tonight. They won't be here long because Neil has just graduated from BCIT and will be starting a new job with BC Hydro next week

Take care, Lil and Pete, and God Bless. Clifford

**June 9, 2007**

**They also serve who only stand and wait (J. Milton)**

I arrived at the hospice today to the sound of Harrison explaining an important aspect of 'Go Fish' to Dad and Mum. He and Jennifer had arrived some time before so the four of them were huddled in front of the fireplace with the rain washing down the skylight overhead and erasing the mountains



from view. Dad was in his chair paying close attention to Harrison's antics.

Mum seems greatly improved today. Yesterday she had been having difficulty connecting each person and activity whereas today she sounded like many of them were falling into place. She was helped by an e-mail and photo I brought her from Jo-ann. Mum had been particularly perturbed by a previous story that Jo-ann wrote about the kids riding in Dad's scooter, so when I passed her the updated elaboration, she carefully read through it, then went through once again, asked a few points of confirmation and clarification, then declared (with a big smile on her face) "Isn't that nice – it's all straightened out now!" She then went on to marvel at the photo of Jo-ann. "Even Ted wouldn't have recognized her." She exclaimed.

The staff had brought in a more substantial cot for her last night – maybe that makes a difference.

Dad showed considerable energy today. Mum said that he slept so soundly last night that she wasn't sure he would wake up, but when the nurse came in this morning he wanted to get out of his bed, shared some of her breakfast, and was able to keep going with only one rest period. He was clearly interested in Harrison and my games once we got out the dominos. Even when Jenn and Harrison left he didn't want to go back to bed. I set him up in the Living room until he finally indicated he was tired and I helped him back into bed. After a chat with Mum I left for the evening with Dad sleeping and Mum patiently resting by his side.

#### **Comments to the blog:**

Dear Lil and Pete:

I marvel at your resilience and am so pleased that you are able to appreciate the comforts of the hospice, staff and Bill.

Keep up he good work, and make the most o it.

God bless and have a good night.

Love, Clifford

9:12 PM

Glad to here Harrison and Jenn were able to come to visit. Such a great enviroment that you both are in. So relaxed and comfortable!

Britney,Daven, Jasper and I will se you tomorrow. Thank you so much for being such wonderful grandparents....we are so lucky!!! love jacquie

11:00 PM

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Britney, Daven, Jasper and I will see you tomorrow. Thank you so much for being such wonderful grandparents....we are so lucky!!! love jacquie  
11:00 PM

Good Morning. I just talked to Jo-Ann on the phone and learned how to forward a comment without opening an account.  
Hope you are both having a good A.M.  
I am just heading out the door to church.  
More soon.  
Love Thelma  
9:43 AM

Hi Grandma & Grandpa,

We are very glad to see that you are both in such wonderful care and surroundings. Thanks for the updates Bill and your efforts in keeping us all connected.

We are thinking of you daily and send our love to you both.

Steve, Stephanie and Ethan  
2:48 PM

Hi Grandma and Grandpa!!

Sorry that the kids and I couldn't make it today. We were looking forward to seeing you but I wasn't feeling up to snuff today. I have my long awaited shoulder specialist appointment tomorrow, and at the end of the month I am having a second opinion and probably setting up a surgery date for some time in July. I will pay to have the surgery so that I can get back to work quicker. The msp waiting list couldn't get me in until December-ish. I can't wait to get back to work and gardening!!

I hope you had a wonderful day! So glad you can be together still!

Love you lots and lots!! Jacquie  
6:35 PM

**June 10, 2007**  
**JP and Lies have arrived**

JP and Lies arrived with Lies' cousin Marleen last night, so they were eager to visit Mum and Dad. They had driven from Montreal and picked up Marleen in Calgary. We headed over to the hospice after church and found Dad ready to go in his Chair. JP and Lies stayed and chatted while I took Marleen for a tour around Stanley Park since it was her first visit to Canada.



We returned a couple of hours later – just about five minutes after JP had helped Dad get into bed. Unlike the elaborate struggle that the nurses, Dad, and I took to get him to bed, JP simply lifted him out of the chair and put him on the bed as if it were a simple manner. There is something to be said for brute strength! I expect Dad appreciated it.

JP reported that Dad looked tired, but he periodically showed interest in the conversation as Mum, Lies, and JP exchanged stories of their trip across the country and some family history of the places they had seen. JP got out his guitar as well and sang them the song that their early history had inspired. It is a lovely piece about Mum and Dad's early life together – about the same period in their relationship that Lies and JP are now experiencing in theirs. I expect that the lyrics will appear shortly for those who are interested.

**Comments to the blog:**

Hi Grandma and Grandpa!

I bet you enjoyed your visit with JP and Lies...His sing song must have been good! :)

Daven is out riding his bike at the school with friends...something he has been doing most evenings these days. He has blown out tubes on two different bikes, so we need to go replace the tubes asap. I keep finding MY bike in a different spot in the garage...hopefully my tires stay safe!

Britney has been doing some cooking after school. She is famous with



Daven's friends for her apple crumble muffins. She is also enjoying teaching Jasper new tricks...today she taught her to 'shake a paw'. Her next goal is to teach her to fetch!

We send you our love and hugs!! Love Jacquie  
8:11 PM

Saturday, my football team won the Silver Cup. It went into overtime. We won in overtime because our defense stopped the other team from getting the touchdown and the point. Our team name (Oak Bay Vikings) was put on the cup, and the year.

After, there was a football party at a team member's house. We each got our own bobblehead trophy and a CD of season pictures. We also had cake, hot-dogs, hamburgers and there was a waterfight on the front lawn.

After, we played a game of football that turned into every man for himself. It was fun.

I love you. Zachary  
8:38 PM

Hi it's Samantha.I wanted to just tell you about my camp.The frist day we made our bottomless tent's and there where slugs all ovre the place.The second day it was raining.We made a skit(performance) and it was funny everbody loved it.We went for a walk down by the rever.We had smores in a bag and it was good.We got t-ee shirt and we got everbody to singed it.We slept in a cabin and told gost stories. i had lots of fun.Please type bake.

9:17 PM

Hi Grandma and Grandpa!!

Sorry that the kids and I couldn't make it today. We were looking forward to seeing you but I wasn't feeling up to snuff today. I have my long awaited shoulder specialist appointment tomorrow,and at the end of the month I am having a second opinion and probably setting up a surgery date for some time in July. I will pay to have the surgery so that I can get back to work quicker. The msp waiting list couldn't get me in until December-ish. I can't wait to get back to work and gardening!!

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Hi Grandma & Grandpa,

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We are thinking of you daily and send our love to you both.

Steve, Stephanie and Ethan

Good Morning, I just talked to Jo-Ann on the phone and learned how to forward a comment without opening an account.

Hope you are both having a good A.M.

I am just heading out the door to church.

More soon.

Love Thelma

Good Morning Bill. I have tried to send 3 comments to you and Dad and Mom this past week and I am not sure if you received them or not as I don't seem them on comments. I thought I would send a note today this way. Thank you so much for being there with Dad and Mom. It sounds as though Dad has settled in at the Chalet as well as Mom. It is wonderful that Mom can stay at the hospice together and that they can have visitors anytime. Maria called during the week as they do not have e-mail and she wanted to be updated with what was happening with Dad and then Pete has called a few times and spoke with Bob. Bob arrived home late Friday night from his work in Nelson and then had to go to Castlegar Saturday to take our car down for a service job as there was a strange noise in the front brakes which I guess turned out to be a dirt build up from the winter and Peter went with him and dinner at Shelley's as it was Cam's Birthday. I was to join them but a very close friend of are's had a massive heart attach and was air lifted to Vancouver and so we were put in charge of their deaf dog that knows our family so I statyed home with him. I tried to use sign language but he

wouldn't have any part of it. Ha Ha. Well send Dad and Mom are Love and when Bob gets mobile this morning I will have him try to call Mom and have a chat with her. Can you explain how you send a blog?? Andrea sent one but she is away camping so I can't get here to help me. Thanks Bill. [from Debbie]

Glad to hear Harrison and Jenn were able to come to visit. Such a great environment that you both are in. So relaxed and comfortable!

Britney, Daven, Jasper and I will see you tomorrow. Thank you so much for being such wonderful grandparents....we are so lucky!!! love jacquie

Dear Lil and Pete:

I marvel at your resilience and am so pleased that you are able to appreciate the comforts of the hospice, staff and Bill.

Keep up the good work, and make the most of it.

God bless and have a good night.

Love, Clifford

Hi Grandma and Grandpa!!

Today has been a 'catch up' day around home. Laundry, cleaning, etc. Britney finished her homework and Daven had a sleepover at his friend's last night and hasn't come home yet...they went to a hockey game! I will make dinner soon and then we will watch a movie later.

Tomorrow the kids and I will be by for another visit...and Jasper too since she is allowed.

I hope you sleep well tonight, you are both such troopers!

Love you lots and lots...Jacquie

**On His Blindness (John Milton)**

When I consider how my light is spent  
Ere half my days in this dark world and wide,  
And that one Talent which is death to hide  
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent

To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
My true account, lest He returning chide,  
"Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"  
I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent  
That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need  
Either man's work or his own gifts. Who best  
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state  
Is kingly: thousands at his bidding speed,  
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;  
They also serve who only stand and wait." [from Bill]

**June 11, 2007**  
**Tales from the Past and Future**

I had a lovely visit with Mum while waiting for JP, Lies, and Marleen to arrive. She told me that Jennifer had stopped in on her rounds in the morning and that Dad had a good sleep, an active morning (in his wheelchair), but was tuckered out by the time I arrived in the early afternoon. I sat with him while Mum went off to join the staff and residents in a big spaghetti meal.



Dad gave me a big smile from his bed when I arrived, but spent much of the next few hours alternately sleeping and peeking at Mum and I as we told our stories. Mum was full of good tales stemming from the blog comments about the many activities and events in various people's lives. I print them out for her and she reads them over several times after I leave, so by the time I return the next day she is full of stories and questions. It means that there is a bit of a lag in the process, but it is a great support for her.

She then gave me a rundown on her visit with JP and Lies from yesterday. They had been telling her of the fun they had reading the stories she had written several years ago about her early years with Dad. What made it special was that they were reading them as they drove across the prairies – and passed many of the places mentioned in the stories. I expect it was also special for Mum since JP and Lies are now at the same stage in their lives – setting up a new life with a baby on the way.

### Comments to the blog:

Hi Lilpete;

Glad to read from the blog that you both had a good night last night. And reading about JP and Leis... each successive generation seems to be pretty much in lock step, each experiencing life's highlights are pretty much the same time.

My granddaughter Wendy (Fedor) (who married Eric Ferro in Feb) is about 4 years younger than PJ, but is catching up fast.... is also expecting in November. I believe that is called a honeymoon baby, but everyone is delighted.

Neil, Laurence's son, was here for a few days holiday after graduating from BCIT along with Valerie. They are leaving today because he starts work tomorrow, 8AM, with BC Hydro. They were reluctant to give him that much holiday; they wanted him to start the day after graduation, but did relent a little.

Bye for now, and God Bless. Clifford  
8:27 AM

Hi Grandpa and Grandma!

So nice to have this site (thanks, Uncle Bill!). Glad to hear about your days and how well they are to you there. I wanted you to know that The Clock is up on the wall and looks as good as ever. There is a funny story here in Castlegar as it seems the best Clock Fixer "Guy" happened to have lived at one time in Mom and Ron's place and ran his business there. So, the clock will make it to him eventually to see if he can get it up and running! I guess that is a good sign! (Cam is a real handy guy - which Great Grannie has always said is a good quality to marry - but not a clock Guy and not as handy as Grandpa, I think!) HaHa Glad you are having good visits with family. Think of you every day!

Shelley, Cam, Alison and Sara  
1:57 PM

I want to thank you Bill for all the wonderful postings of Grandpa and Grandma as well as reading about the rest of the family. I must say that having a child in my life really lets me see why all the grown ups when I was little always enjoyed us. For just today (Tuesday June 12th) I stopped in to see Grandpa and Grandma and was letting Grandma know that Harrison said hello, I said to her that he thinks that grandpa is the greatest card player in the world because I (Jennifer) told him about all the times Grandpa would cheat and hand cards under the table so that I could win lol and he thought that was cool... Harrison is in at Arleen's for the night, Remember all the sleep overs all us cousins had lol..

I am glad to see that you are eating like a queen and letting other look after you and grandpa.. love always Jenn

see you tomorrow xoxoxo

7:59 PM

Hi it's Samantha.I wanted to just tell you about my camp.The first day we made our bottomless tent's and there where slugs all over the place.The second day it was raining.We made a skit(performance) and it was funny everybody loved it.We went for a walk down by the river.We had smores in a bag and it was good.We got t-shirt and we got everybody to sing it.We slept in a cabin and told ghost stories. i had lots of fun.Please type back.

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We send you our love and hugs!! Love Jacquie

Dear All: I've no idea how long it is since I wrote and I've yet to find what this new computer does with my sent mail so I can't check so guess I'll just go back aways and hope I don't repeat too much .

Joan and Mike just returned to Mexico after a couple of weeks in the States getting acquainted with their new Granddaughter Abby and reacquainted with big sister Hayley. I drove to Cleveland on June 25th to see them all. We set up the date by phone before they came home so that we wouldn't have trouble finding a day that was good for us all, however, I didn't realize that it was the start of the Memorial Day weekend (I was looking at a Canadian Beautiful B.C. calendar which Elaine and Ralph always send). The following weekend J and M drove to Chicago to visit Ben and Andy and baby Alex (8 mos). He was dedicated on the Sunday. I would have loved to go along but it was the same weekend as Emily's graduation. On Memorial Day (28th) we watched the parade - another final for Emily and later I went to Jill's for lunch.

The previous Tuesday had been the final concert of the year at PHS and Emily and Joshua played in their bands. It was Emily's last H.S. concert as she graduated on June 1st. She will be attending Bowling Green State University and living at home like her Mom did. Also like her Mom she has a full scholastic scholarship so we are very proud of her. They bought her a car a few weeks ago but she doesn't have her license yet although she has her temps and is getting her driving time in. She was in no hurry to drive

but since she will be driving to Bowling Green in the fall it became a necessity.

Anyway I had a great visit in Cleveland, Abby is a sweet doll baby and Hayley was not too shy, she gave me a hug before she went off for her nap. They have my picture on the piano so she knows who I am and it hadn't been too long since I'd been there. I drove home through a terrific rainstorm. I just put my blinkers on and kept my eye on the two white lines. I think it lasted about 15 minutes but it sure seemed longer.

As I said Emily's graduation was on the 1st and Saturday (8th) was her "Open House" Party so Jill (actually the whole family) and I were busy with preparations. I made cookies and potato salad. It was from 4 - 7 P.M. and almost 90 people came (not all at once) and a friend of Jill's and I kept an eye on the food line. It was an incredibly beautiful day, 78 degrees and sunny and clear with low humidity. Thurs was in the 90's and Friday also with winds and rain. Actually it has been pleasant ever since but the temperature is climbing a little each day so next weekend it won't be so nice.

Today I made my reservations to go to Andy's wedding on the 14th. I will fly out on July 6th and return on the 22nd. I am glad to have that taken care of.

I hope some of you are still with me. I enjoyed your comments on Bill Reimer's blog. I was pretty proud of myself that I could even open it but then Clifford phoned to say that I hadn't sent any comments. Comments! What's that?! Today when I had a little time I opened it again and read all Bill's updates. It is great the way he keeps us all involved and informed. I will do better now. I see from Jo-Ann's comment that Debra and Brian are still camping in the rain. She said the firefighters should hire them to go camping in an area when there is danger of a fire because they always bring the rain. I'm sure Diane is in 7th heaven taking care of Khodi.

Gotta Go!!! Love to all, (Aunt) Lorraine MOM Grandma

Dear Pete and Lil and Bill,  
Carolyn and I were in New York when Bill's e-mail arrived. So I'm sorry that



we're late in telling you, Uncle Pete that we love you, that we hope you are comfortable, and that Aunty Lil isn't bugging you too much. We're thinking of you and offering up our prayers.

-- Bruce and Carolyn

PS: is Elsie in the loop?

**June 12, 2007**

**Keep on truckin' – and singin'**

Jennifer has been able to drop in to see Mum and Dad again today. She delivers car and truck parts so since her work take her into the city she has been able to combine it with a visit. Nice work!



Dad hasn't been up to much visiting, though. When JP, Lies, and I arrived in the afternoon he was still in bed and looking very sleepy. After we had been chatting with Mum for some time, he woke up enough to ask for a ride, so we got him up and into the chair. He is very weak, though, so after only a half an hour in front of his favorite mountain view he asked to return to bed.

Mum was full of stories once again – and this time she noted that we didn't have enough of them about Dad when he was young. That puts another thing on her list since I was trying to get her to spill the beans on Grandma Reimer as well. There's always another interesting story to tell, so her work is not done yet! I noticed that she had started making notes, so there is a good chance that we will hear them yet. I'm sure that we should get Aunt Elsie going as well since she and Dad were so close. (When Dad was courting Mum, he took a long trip to Winnipeg to tell Elsie the details about the lovely girl that he planned to marry.)

The picture for this entry was not taken today – it's one that Lies took yesterday when JP brought his guitar. He was singing the song inspired by Mum and Dad's early life together about 65 years ago.

**Comments to the blog:**

Hi Bill: Aug 1937, yr Mom brought yr Dad home to the farm to introduce the man she was going to marry. Ask her if she remembers Peters first exposure to work on the threshing gang. No previous exposure, but I think he saw it as his trial by fire, and he was game!

Hi Lilpete and bye for now. Clifford

2:35 PM

Dear Bill, Lily and Peter: I will try again and see if this gets through. All is well here but it's getting a bit warm however we've had some lovely weather so can't complain. It is good to get Bill's blogs and read the comments. He gave me some instructions so we'll see if this goes through. I'm glad that you, Lil and Peter are in a lovely caring place and that Bill is in Vancouver to see that all your needs are met. Love, Lorraine

\*\*\*Hi Lilpete;

Glad to read from the blog that you both had a good night last night. And reading about JP and Leis... each successive generation seems to be pretty much in lock step, each experiencing life's highlights at pretty much the same time.

My granddaughter Wendy (Fedor) (who married Eric Ferro in Feb) is about 4 years younger than PJ, but is catching up fast.... is also expecting in November. I believe that is called a honeymoon baby, but everyone is delighted.

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Bye for now, and God Bless. Clifford

### **June 13, 2007 Victoria sojourn**

Things may get a little confusing since I am off to Victoria today and JP will take over my role with Mum, Dad, and the blog. I know things are in competent and compassionate hands since I sat with him and Mum this morning as he played his guitar in the Living Room.

Dad was sleeping and was only able to manage a 'hello' when I spoke to him. The nurses could not



get enough out of him to provide his medication, so he received it by injection this morning.

Mum and Dad are getting plenty of visitors. She mentioned to JP and I that she had received 3 grandchildren yesterday. Jacquie had dropped in after we had left in the afternoon and had a nice long visit with them.

JP encouraged (forced?) me to head over to Victoria to visit Daegan, Steve, and our 3 grandchildren, so I am now on the ferry. Your comments will continue to get to Mum and Dad through JP and Lies.

### **Comments to the blog:**

I just wanted to tell a little about my visit with g and g on monday evening... Grandpa was in bed when i arrived, with grandma sitting right beside him rubbing his frail hand.(he still had his watch on...and it had worked it's way up his narrowing arm :) He saw me walk in and said "Hi Jacquie" and gave me a grin! Grandma and I spoke about a lot that visit, including Grandmama's last few days. Grandma told me of how she laid in her bed'folding laundry". She would go through all the motions in the air as she folded each towel and each shirt. Grandma said she commented that she was tired and wanted to lay down...not wanting to acknowledge she already was lying down. When told that she was already lying down, Grandmama let out a big "shhhhh!!" She was obviously content with where she was! So cute!

Grandpa was similar on this visit... He held his hand to his cheek, pondering something, and then asked me,"What if I don't pass?" I looked at Grandma as she chuckled, and asked Grandpa what he meant by "Pass?" He wanted to know what would happen if he didn't pass the next test! I told him he had passed all his tests and everything was fine. He asked me how I knew...I kissed him and smiled telling him that Grandma was happy. This was enough to evoke another smile. A little later Grandma feed him some juicy watermelon that he ate happily. It was so sweet to see him munch away. A few hours later Grandpa, still in bed, declared to us he was "soooo tired" and when asked, he wanted to get ready for bed. The nurses took care of that while Grandma and I walked all around the halls. Once the nurses had Grandpa all tucked in, Grandma and I returned to say our good-nights. When I hugged Grandpa he squeezed my hand over and over and said "thank you for everything". I thanked him for everthing he has done and did for all of us. He waved as best he could. He was very peaceful.

Such wonderful memories we all have. I feel so fortunate to have spent my youth growing up with him and Grandma. What great influences they have had upon so many people...

Blessing on Grandpa!! :)

love jacquie

5:57 PM

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Hi Lilpete and bye for now. Clifford

Hi Aunt Lil, Uncle Peter, and Bill

A big hello from Diane. ox

I am so enjoying the blog entries as well as the photos. The story telling sounds fabulous - I love stories! We attempted to get dad to record his stories onto a cassette tape years ago but he wasn't comfortable with the microphone. I especially loved all the "farm stories" - from stamps being stuck all over Great Grandpa Dumville's car to tales of snow blizzards requiring a rope "lead" tied between and house and the barn.

I am home now from Fredericton. I had such a wonderful 10 days with Khodi. Amanda & Ros had a great time in Paris - so much so that they felt it even exceeded their enthusiastic expectations. But my arms are now empty and I'm a little bit sad (Christmas seems a long time away) but my heart is bursting with precious memories and I have an entire 2 GB digital memory card full of photos and video clips. And I am happy to be back home to my very patient and tolerant hubby. He finds my baby-craziness rather amusing.

Kara is blossoming with grand-baby #2. September is fast approaching and we are so eager to meet & greet Baby Lefurgy! You can imagine my blissful joy with the coming of a Chilliwack grand-baby. It is so nice that the school year is winding up and Kara will soon be able to relax and enjoy baby

preparations and shopping.

Trevor is enjoying the university course he is taking this term. It is based on Propaganda & the Media and he quite enthusiastic about it.

Sending greetings and love,  
Diane

**June 14, 2007**

**Last night at the hospice**

At 2:30 AM I was wakened by Daegan with a phone in her hand. She had received a call from JP informing us that Dad had died. JP was on call since I was in Victoria, so he headed off to the hospice to be with Mum in my stead. Mum reported that Dad died peacefully.



Daegan drove me to the bus for my trip on the ferry and I joined JP, Lies, and Mum in the apartment about 11:00 AM. They had already been for a walk to the framing store to look at frames for a picture that Mum and Dad had bought as a wedding gift almost 70 years ago (using the \$15 that was willed to them from Grandma Penner). It is now 7:00 PM and Mum is still going strong – organizing the apartment, responding to phone calls, and telling stories along the way.

Jennifer, Elaine, Ralph, and Maren stopped in for lunch and a lovely chat. Somehow Elaine and Ralph knew enough to bring exactly what was missing from the fridge, so we were well supplied with food.

Mum has certainly been pleased by the many calls and supportive words from family and friends. She was also enthralled by the idea of having a picnic in Dad's memory – an event that not only reflects his spirit but one to which he would have loved to attend. It is set for June 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 so you can contact me for details if you are able to attend.

## Obituary – Peter Reimer 1915 – 2007

**Reimer** – Peter passed away early Thursday morning, June 14, at the St James Cottage Hospice. He was born on May 25, 1915 in Herbert Saskatchewan, second child of Peter and Margaretha. He came to BC after wedding Lilian Laura Jones on November 11, 1937 in Rocanville, SK. Peter served as a Machinist for 41 years, including 2 years of service in the navy.



He is survived by Lilian, his wife of 70 years, his sister Elsie, 3 sons (Peter, William, and Robert), 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. He will be remembered for his skilled and innovative solutions to whatever needs fixing, his love of tripping down the road less traveled, and his devotion to Lil and family. In celebration of Peter's life, a picnic will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM. For details please contact Bill at (604) 266-7234.

### Comments to the blog:

Dear Bill,

Carolyn and I are so very sad that Uncle Pete died this morning. Carolyn met him when we were in Vancouver two or three years ago, and my memories of him stretch back to about 1946! He was a good man and uncle, and I'm sure a great dad, father-in-law and grandfather.

Many thanks for the 9.43 pm e-mail, much appreciated. Elsie had phoned me just a few minutes before, and I spoke briefly to Lil just before your message arrived. I'll write Lil soon.

Strength and courage, and love to all,

Bruce

I just wanted to tell a little about my visit with g and g on monday evening... Grandpa was in bed when i arrived, with grandma sitting right beside him rubbing his frail hand.(he still had his watch on...and it had worked it's way up his narrowing arm :) He saw me walk in and said "Hi Jacquie" and gave me a grin! Grandma and I spoke about a lot that visit, including Grandmama's last few days. Grandma told me of how she laid in her bed'folding laundry". She would go through all the motions in the air as she folded each towel and

each shirt. Grandma said she commented that she was tired and wanted to lay down...not wanting to acknowledge she already was lying down. When told that she was already lying down, Grandmama let out a big "shhhhh!!" She was obviously content with where she was! So cute!

Grandpa was similar on this visit... He held his hand to his cheek, pondering something, and then asked me, "What if I don't pass?" I looked at Grandma as she chuckled, and asked Grandpa what he meant by "Pass?" He wanted to know what would happen if he didn't pass the next test! I told him he had passed all his tests and everything was fine. He asked me how I knew...I kissed him and smiled telling him that Grandma was happy. This was enough to evoke another smile. A little later Grandma feed him some juicy watermelon that he ate happily. It was so sweet to see him munch away. A few hours later Grandpa, still in bed, declared to us he was "soooo tired" and when asked, he wanted to get ready for bed. The nurses took care of that while Grandma and I walked all around the halls. Once the nurses had Grandpa all tucked in, Grandma and I returned to say our good-nights. When I hugged Grandpa he squeezed my hand over and over and said "thank you for everything". I thanked him for everthing he has done and did for all of us. He waved as best he could. He was very peaceful.

Such wonderful memories we all have. I feel so fortunate to have spent my youth growing up with him and Grandma. What great influences they have had upon so many people...

Blessing on Grandpa!! :)

love jacquie

**June 15, 2007**

**Comments to the blog:**

Bill, thanks for letting us know - Wendy is in Toronto and Laurie and I in Denver - W will receive a copy of your email in a few minutes. I would like to add to the blog, but pls tell Lil we are with her, and Peter is maybe better at rest. We also feel for you and you family - Peter Sr. was always a favourite of mine.

Our sorrow, and sympathy to all,



David, Wendy and family

Aunt Lil,

Just wanted to make sure you know I am thinking about you and your wonderful family at this time of loss. Uncle Peter was such a special man. I will always remember him as my quiet, kind uncle with the hidden sense of humour and the twinkle in his eye.

Kerry and I leave tomorrow for Victoria where we will do our half iron man (2 km swim, 90 km bike, and 20 km ride) on Sunday. Monday we will take the ferry to Anacortes and then spend a week working our way down the Washington Coast. I am not sure if we will be back in town in time for the picnic, but if we are we will be there.

I am going to attach a picture of me with my two best friends (Kerry and Liz). In the picture we are at an Olympic triathlon in Abbotsford last summer.

Take Good Care

Love Jo-Ann



Dear Bill:

I talked to your Mom last night and was amazed - she sounded truly pleased to hear from me and was chattier than she has been in some time. Elaine and Clifford also phoned me. I had been concerned that Elaine was away but providentially the weather had caused them to come home. I am SO glad that you were there for your Mom during these last difficult days and



thankful for the loving care that Hospice gave. I have heard nothing but good about them from people all over. They seem to have grasped a real sense of the need.

I will be praying for Your Mom as she faces the decisions that she has to make and the emotional ups and downs that she is sure to face in the days ahead. Thankfully the Lord puts us - I don't know how to express it but he keeps us from the full reality for a time and we draw strength from family and friends and the knowledge that they are going through this with us. She is wise not to make any impetuous moves at this time - they say you shouldn't make any big decisions during the first year. I will plan to spend a few days with her when I come out in October if she is agreeable. I have always ben very thankful that we had moved to an apartment before Harold died and that I wasn't left with a house to sell.

I have fond memories of your Dad, I lived with your Mom when he was away in the Navy, from August '44 and with you all after he came home until after Bob was born. *I don't remember just when. I also don't know how I got into italics or how to get out.*

*Love to you and your Mom and all the family, Aunt Lorraine*

**June 16, 2007**

**Comments to the blog:**

Hi Bill.

Jo-Ann and Kerry are on a holiday but she works at Langley Memorial Hospital so may have some advise for JP and Lies when she gets back and into her E-mail again. Probably hasn't heard about Uncle Peter yet.

I plan to attend the celebration on the 24th. So glad it's a Sunday as I have a huge dinner I'm organizing at the church for 22nd and I wandered how I could slip out mid week. I'm looking forward to end of June when things slow down for the summer months.

It will be so nice to have more of Lil's family near by. Please give her my love.

Debra told me the plans for catering and I will bring along some baking.I will phone later in week if the weather remains wet and ask about plans for rain, but sounds like it is to become sunny by mid week so I'm hoping for some better weather soon.

Love Aunt Thelma.

Dear Bill:

Heather and I want to express our deepest sympathies to you and Fran and your family on the passing of your Dad. We were saddened to hear the news on Thursday but relieved that he passed away peacefully in his sleep.

I have so many fond memories of you, Pete, and Robert and especially of your parents who were so kind and inclusive of June and I. Please pass on our warmest regards and best wishes to all. Sorry we will miss the picnic. What a great way to honor his memory!

Sincerely, Rick and Heather

Hi Bill

The picnic at Maple Grove sounds just splendidly perfect.

I am very sorry that I will be unable to attend. I had to do some complicated wheeling and dealing to be able to have those 10 days off early this month to travel back to Fredericton to be with Khodi. So unfortunately next weekend is a payback weekend. I looked into the possibility of further shuffling, but alas, with summer so close it was not possible.

Please give Auntie Lil a big hug for me. My thoughts to all the family.

I am sure that JoAnn will get back to you with Dr. suggestions for Langley. She has lived in Langley for quite a number of years and works at Langley Hospital. Congratulations to JP and Leis - and to you & Fran - and to great grandma! Another blessing on the way!

Love, Diane

I received a phone call from Al Kraft this afternoon. He said that he worked with Dad for about 10 years at 'the foundry' (Pandora and Commercial). He was a labourer and remembered Dad as a "very nice fellow". He said that he

just wanted to call to let us know that someone else was thinking about him fondly.

He added that he was just a first time Grandparent. His daughter (a chartered accountant) gave birth to a son (Roland) just 2 weeks ago. His other daughter is a social worker.

He mentioned how Ian Shooter is another person that worked with Dad at Vancouver Iron and Engineering Works (VIEW) - and Eldrid Tinker who worked with Dad on the large upright machine during the afternoon shift. Mum pointed out how much Dad liked the afternoon shift since he was able to enjoy the mornings each day.

Bill

### **June 24, 2007 Peter's Picnic**

We woke up this morning to a downpour – thunder and all! Needless to say, the picnic took the form of plan B. By the time we assembled at Maren's house, the sun was shining and the large patches of blue sky suggested that the joke was on us. In the end, a picnic indoors worked just as well as outdoors, however.



It was an event that Dad would have liked – lots of good food, family, friends, kids, stories – and, of course, watermelon. It was wonderful to have cousins discovering (again) other cousins – many of them of the 'shirt-tail' variety. We passed around plenty of photos and JP even entertained us with the song he wrote while inspired by his voyage through Mum and Dad's country.

Two years ago when Mum was recovering from her fall and thinking about Dad's remarkable ability to manage, I remember her musing "I wonder how this love affair will end." At the time I was unable to respond.

Looking around the room at Peter's picnic and thinking about the many phone calls, letters, and e-mails Mum has received, a response seems obvious.

This love affair is far from ending – it continues in the legacy they have established – the many hands and hearts that have put together this picnic, the

skills that are manifested each time one of us fixes a broken toaster, gets the car running again, works out the plans to build a table, or looks at a broken implement as an opportunity to learn how it works. It also continues in the desire to get together, to help out, to comfort, to play, and to celebrate.

This love affair is not over yet!

**Peter's Picnic Photos (<http://wcreimer.blogspot.com/>)**

A short message from David Nesbitt, nephew to Uncle Peter.

I wanted to add that I always remember his wonderful smile and patience - also memories of him in the back yard of the old house, and of course in the "new" apartment.

He remains a wonderful memory to me of man who could do anything with metal-works (I remember some stories of his working days), and a loving family man.

He will be missed, and our love to you all from the Nesbitt family in Hong Kong.

David Nesbitt