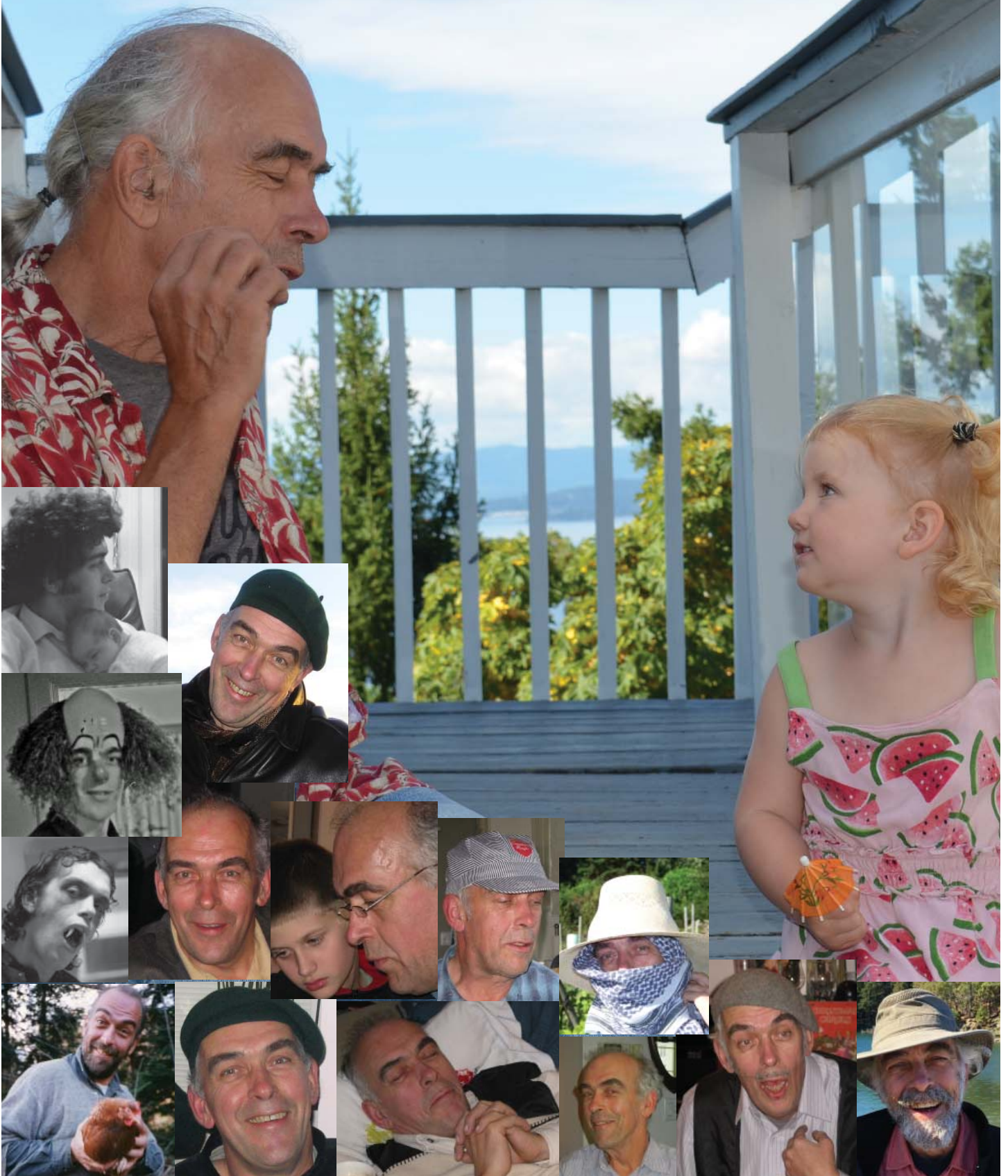


Celebrating Uncle John





John with Dorothy and Jack circa 2000

FnB Productions
2017: Edition 1, First Printing

Dear John,

We have celebrated your life in our lives in many ways — in spite of the obstacles you playfully create for such celebrations. And, we continue to enjoy and appreciate the contributions you have made to our children's lives — and to their children's lives.

This book is another manifestation of our appreciation. In its production we are joined by generations of nieces, nephews, shirt-tail relatives, and friends who eagerly identify you as "Uncle John".

We hope it conjures up as many pleasant memories for you as it has done for us.

Love,

Fran, Bill, and your many fans

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Nurturing an Uncle

John Alexander Shaver was born on October 27, 1949 in Carberry Hospital—about 30 km down the road from Sydney, Manitoba where the family lived in the United Church manse.



Here is a photo of the Shavers at Falcon Lake (circa 1952). Fran recalls how you walked off the edge of the boathouse floor—right into the water. She remembers watching you in the water with a beam of sunshine illuminating your swimming motions—and you looking like a turtle on its back. Fortunately, Jack dove in and rescued you in time to keep you on the path to uncle-dom.

Love the tam!



A different summer holiday. Wilma's first summer with polio. Fran tells stories of her flying down the hill in front of our campsite (on her kiddy-car) and how you boys kicked in the side of the tent one morning. "It was so old it just ripped open. Dad came to the rescue with an auto-tent for the boys and Wilma and I moved into the collapsable house tent with Mum and Dad."

Raymond Meyers lived across the street from the Shavers on 923 Byng Place. You felt that Jim kept "stealing" Raymond from your playtime together.

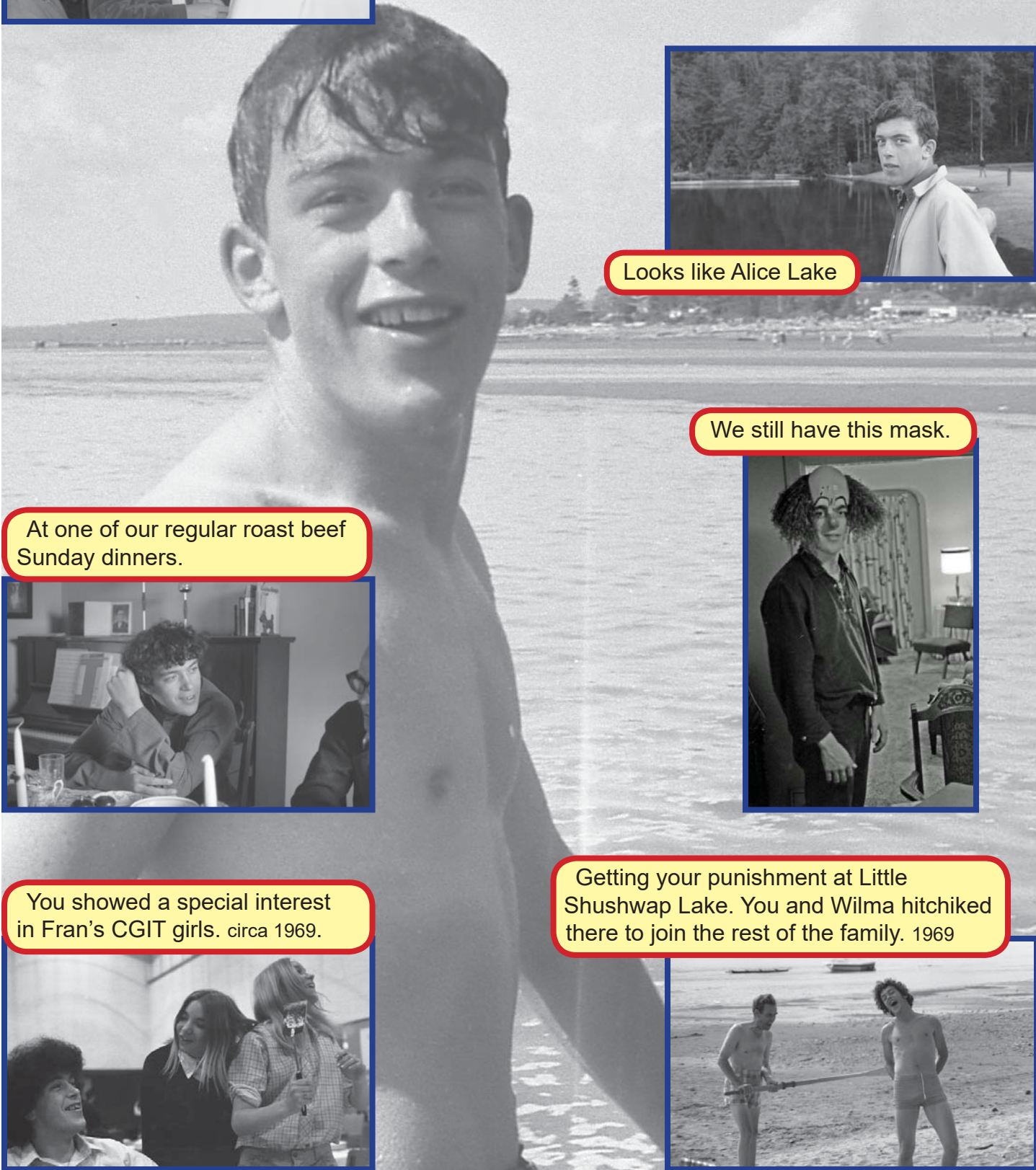


This photo must have been taken during a BC holiday in the '59 Chev.





With Jack and Hugh Dempster at UBC. circa 1966



Looks like Alice Lake

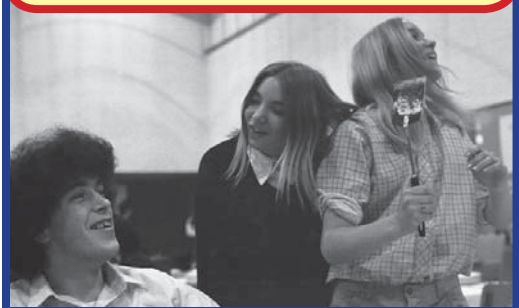
We still have this mask.



At one of our regular roast beef Sunday dinners.



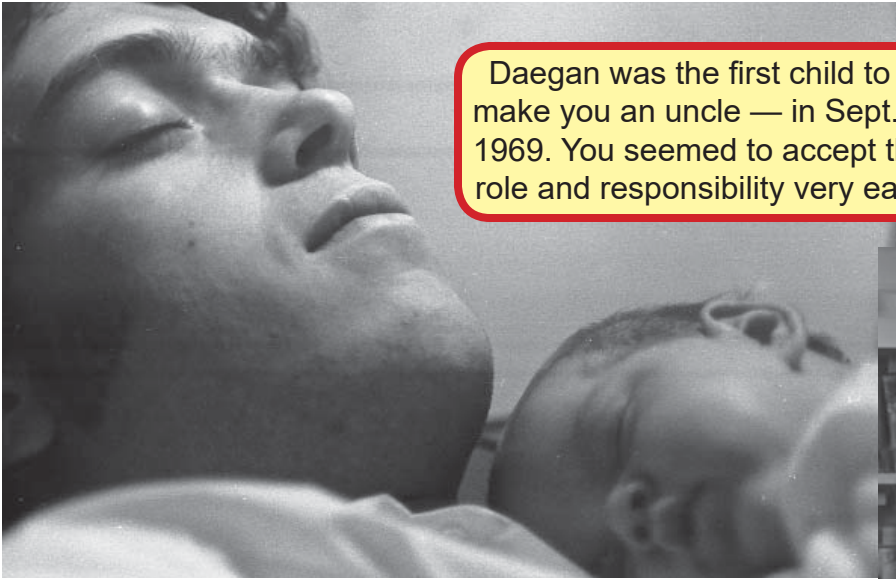
You showed a special interest in Fran's CGIT girls. circa 1969.



Getting your punishment at Little Shushwap Lake. You and Wilma hitchhiked there to join the rest of the family. 1969



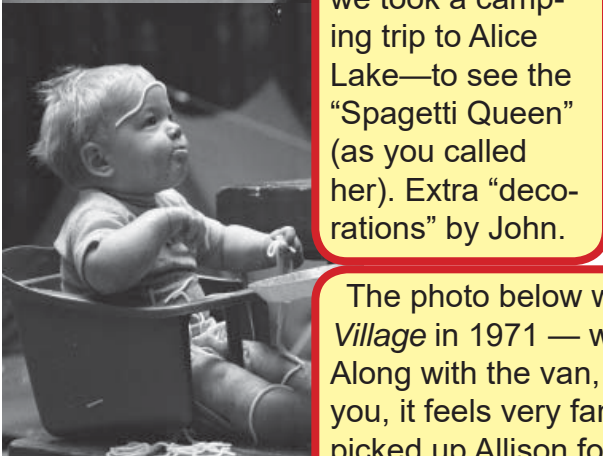
If a Niece...then an Uncle



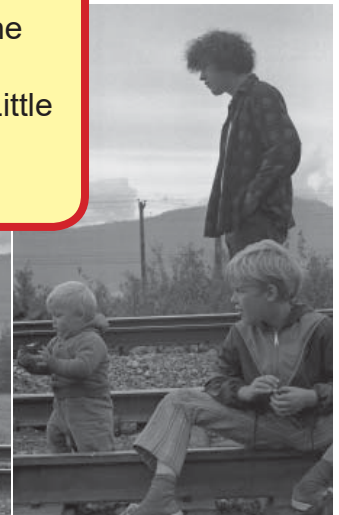
Daegan was the first child to make you an uncle — in Sept. 1969. You seemed to accept the role and responsibility very easily.



We spent a lovely time with you and the rest of the Shavers (without Wilma) at Little Shushwap Lake in 1970.



In May 1970 we took a camping trip to Alice Lake—to see the “Spagetti Queen” (as you called her). Extra “decorations” by John.



The photo below was taken at *Upper Canada Village* in 1971 — when it was just being developed. Along with the van, a naked child, Samwise, and you, it feels very familiar. This was just before we picked up Allison for our road trip back to Vancouver.



In early 1973 you were the second family member to check out the new baby (after your Mum). It meant a trip to Montréal and plenty of time with Daegan. In this photo you have joined her under the upper bunk bed I made.





We flew out to BC in the summer of 1973 to show off JP and reconnect with family. These were the days before Facebook and WhatsApp so face-to-face encounters were most important.



"Boating" with Daegan in the back yard of 4073 W. 19th (Shaver Mountain).



This is a photo of your 1973 spring visit to our place on Terrebonne St. You were able to combine it with a visit and interview with Frank Marino and the rest of the Mahogany Rush band in their basement in NDG or Cote-St-Luc. The interview was for the Georgia Straight but I no longer recall how you got the gig. I wonder what happened to the photos I took at that session. This is what you called Fran's Jane Fonda hairdo.

These two photos are from a visit to Barnston Island. We were there visiting Jim and Marilyn in the summer of 1973.

The 1970s to 90s

Daegan drew the picture and Fran embroidered it on this t-shirt for you.



1975 /05/17

In 1977 you and Debbie came out for a visit — this time to our place on Ile Bigras. Poor Debbie tried to organize a birthday party for Daegan, but Daegan just grumped through the paper hats and streamers like she was being forced to eat chicken liver.



Debbie was fostered by Marilyn's mother.

"Either my camera broke or we did not have much direct contact with you for a number of years since I don't have photos of you from about 1977 to 1986. Here's one from Christmas 1985 at Shaver Mountain where a whole new set of nephews have arrived, our kids are no longer infants, and your hair has receded noticeably." (Bill)



"In the summer of 1987 we had a wonderful trip with you from Vancouver to Cranbrook. JP's cousin Steven came with us as far as Keremeos. We enjoyed stops at Bromley Rock and camping at Inkameep near Osoyoos—the famous Indigenous name meaning "Place where the tumbleweed rolls over the tent and into the campfire"—or something like that. We had a great time trying to come up with even better translations, especially you." (Fran)



We were back in BC in 1993 and had a chance to visit your place with Jackie.



1975



You spent plenty of nephew-time around the card table at the Kerrisdale condo (aka Shaver Hall) in April 1994.



Daegan and Steve's marriage on June 17, 1995 provided a wonderful opportunity for more uncle/brother time.

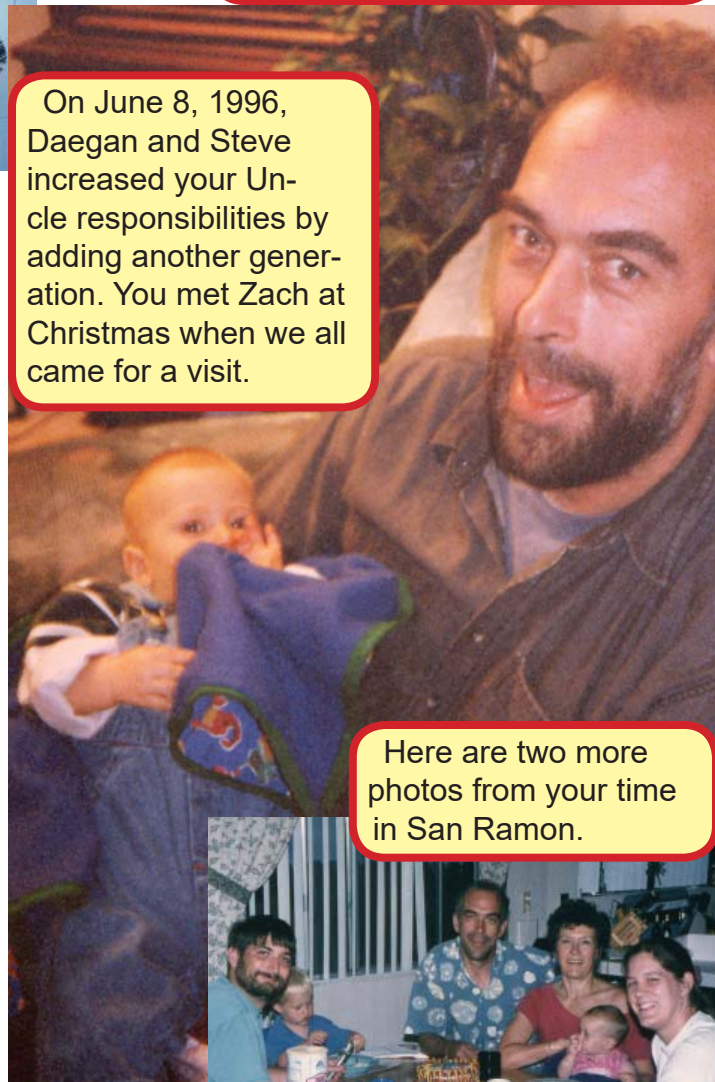
In 1994, you organized the 50th anniversary celebration for Dorothy and Jack. We were particularly pleased that you arranged for all the nieces and nephews to be the servers.



On June 8, 1996, Daegan and Steve increased your Uncle responsibilities by adding another generation. You met Zach at Christmas when we all came for a visit.

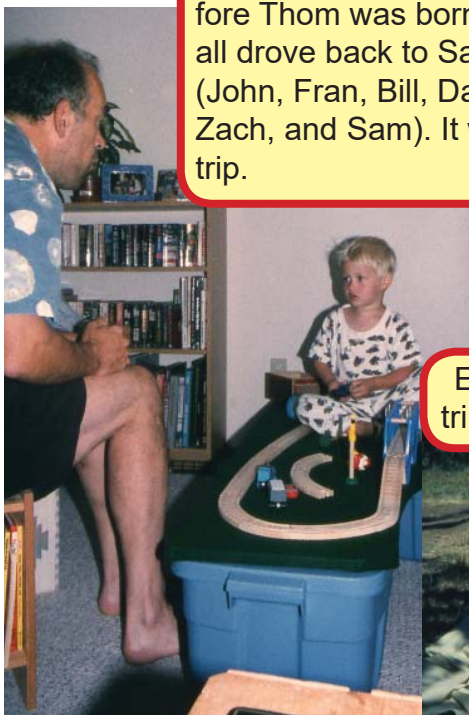


After Daegan and Steve's wedding (1995) we had time to hang out with you on Iles Bigras.

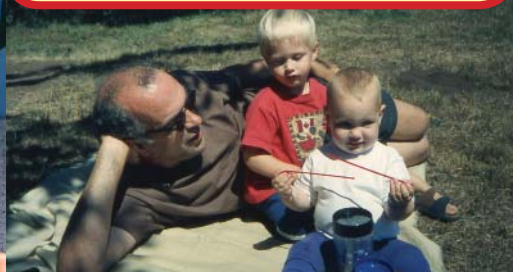


Here are two more photos from your time in San Ramon.

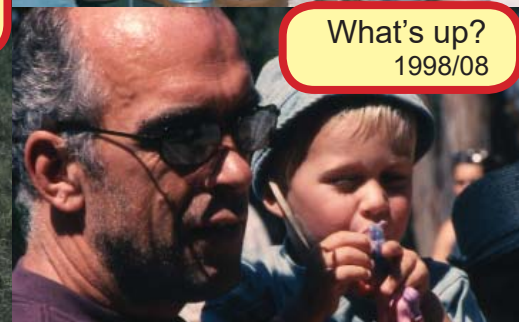
In the summer of 1998 Daegan drove to Vancouver for a visit with the 2 kids (before Thom was born). Then we all drove back to San Ramon (John, Fran, Bill, Daegan, Zach, and Sam). It was a great trip.



Enjoying the sunshine on the trip to San Ramon.



What's up?
1998/08



Letters

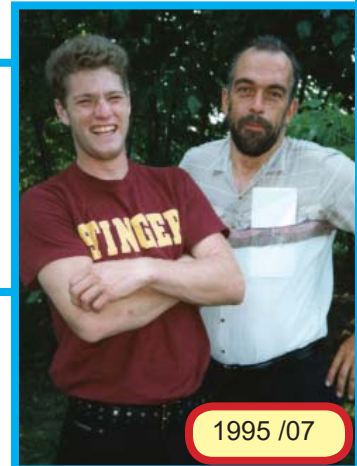
"A number of years ago I came out to BC to visit in the summer. It may have been for the 50th wedding anniversary but I'm not exactly sure. John took his nephews (Aaron, Michael, Will, and me) to Playland for some fun and rides.

We thought it would be fun to ride the wooden roller coaster together and waited in line. We managed to get the first two seats and were excited about riding right up front. During the ride we were laughing and holding our hands in the air. We were even holding them out in front of us like we were superman or something. Here were two large people riding a roller coaster like they were 14 year olds.

When the ride ended two playland employees approached us and informed us that we were not allowed to ride the ride again. We got kicked off the roller coaster because we had been "standing" during the ride.

Ha, just like high school kids. Only at 6'6" and 6'3" we were jammed in so tight to the seat by the safety bar there was no way that we could have stood up. I guess the stick-in-the-mud Playland folk figured it was impossible for a couple of dudes to have that much fun sitting down."

JP



"In 1997 I went out to Vancouver to go to UBC; I was going to get my bachelor of education degree.

Not long after I moved out here, my girlfriend from back in Montreal left me. Around this time John was having trouble with women as well. Either he had just been left or there was someone that was giving him the run around, I'm not sure. We had been hanging around together and figured that we must be "love dinks". This was an adaptation of the term "dink" which I think is a Shaver term.*

We lamented our troubled love lives and spent some nice times together. I started playing in his band with him and Aaron. John had some friends that got together and practiced once a week. I went along and shared some of the songs I had written.

One song in particular was a song about lost love, it was sad and depressing. To my surprise John began singing lyrics to the exact same chord progression. Lyrics that were all sad and blue as well, lyrics he had written at some point. We had essentially written the same song independently of each other.

Here were these two broken hearts lamenting to each other sounding like a couple of old tom cats moaning to each other across the city."

JP

* dink: "Someone who becomes an acceptable acquaintance just by hanging around."
(Shaver lexicon)

"I moved to Vancouver into the basement of Uncle John's in the winter of 1996. It had just snowed over a foot—a rare event. I remember moving stuff from my dad's old Ford truck into the basement. I shared half the music studio. All I had was a desk, a lamp, a bed, some clothes, and my guitar. In the room there was a drum kit, 3 or 4 guitar amps, a piano, a reel to reel recorder, patch cords, various collections of art—stuff like that. Cool lamps to make interesting lighting for jam sessions.

The house was on east 48th—very close to the Value Village on Victoria. I moved there to go to school at Langara to finish off my associate physics 2-year degree. The house had three roommates: Uncle John, Brit Brendon, and Jerry Gooder. The band Jughead practiced every Thursday. I remember sometimes I was studying homework and the band would start playing. There was Gary White, Evelyn, John Dundee, and Jackie as the core band members—and others would come and help out. Uncle John was working on the Sunshine Coast on a 9 days home, 5 days away schedule (something like that, depending on the season) on Bill Hook's farm.

You need to get this context for John, because for him it's always been about incorporating work and living so tightly that sometimes you think he's never working and sometimes you think he's always working, because it's the same routine. Because Vancouver is so expensive, living in a studio made it possible. I think my rent was paying the phone and cable for the house. The experience helped me get used to city life. I figured out where the closest stores were, if I broke a guitar string where I could get it replaced, where the movie theater was at—stuff like that.

I didn't have too many friends at the start so I spent a lot of time at home at first. It was a fun time. Uncle John and I would go to Grandma's for dinner on one day of the week — I forget what day, maybe Friday or Saturday—and he would drive his blue Buick to Kerrisdale. We would play music and watch Canucks' games on TV. I remember we watched Twin Peaks from start to finish on VHS.

I remember him getting really excited when I showed him some of the calculus I was doing and of the unit circle, the number line and the number plane, derivatives, and vector analysis. I had super duper long hair at that time, and Uncle John still had some hair at that time too. He liked to do crossword puzzles and we would play cribbage. Maybe once a week we had dinner together separate from Grandma's—I had my own bathroom and used a kitchen downstairs. The house had guidelines for being a good housemate, but there were no real rules.

We would drive up to Sicamous together maybe once every 4 months or so.

I lived with Uncle John for 20 months. We lived at the house until it was sold and torn down. It was built in the 60s and could have survived with maintenance, but you know—revolving change.

I considered following them to their new place—a little bit of talk—but I still needed to go to school. I had a summer house sitting after that and then I stayed in the neighbourhood to be close to Langara with some friends I had met in Vancouver.



Uncle John kept going to Grandma's once or twice a week, and I would go sometimes as well. I think he went more regularly after Grandpa died. I would go with him when no body else would—so during the holidays there would be lots of people, but during other times when there were fewer people I would go."

Aaron

Playing cards with the nephews.
1996/04

1
April 30th
Hi Bill.

I believe you said I had sent you two Feb. letters. So this will be my April letter.

I have been seeing a lot of John lately. I mean we see each other at the Sunday dinner of course, but I've been ~~to~~ with him to go to Superstore, Canadian Tire, and to pick-up the trees recently. He is a character. He talks a lot. And his stories are long, but he tells them slowly, because he paces a lot, and you think he's done, but he's not! A few weeks ago Lisa and Aaron were out of town. So John picked me up from work. We picked up Needle Box, and came back to the Suite to Eat. I tried to track the path of our conversation.

3
(raisins often come up it seems, because we don't like them and Lisa has put them in the salad before.) and Oatmeal, and how ~~at~~ in the morning he has a bowl with Oatmeal and raisins even if he doesn't really enjoy them. Not sure how we transitioned this time, but it was money or cost of drugs. John has said once or twice that the government or something wanted to cut down on the number of junkies, so he came up with the idea of forcing drugs with fentanyl, and told the gov. ~~that~~ that. That came up after the cost of drugs.

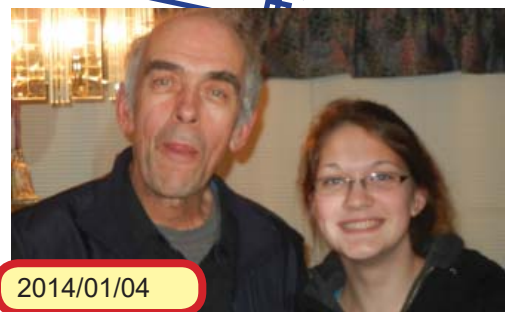
Keep in mind, he was mostly the one guiding the conversation. I do

2
Here it is. It started when he was talking about the lady who served us at the Needle Box, as she had blue hair and facial piercings, and that she was pretty but had all those piercings and what might bring someone to get them. And then it went to how tongue piercings, and that it's possible they make oral more satisfying. Then it went to Prince Albert piercing (he didn't know the name, I added that in). He started talking about his Sweepstakes (if you don't know what that is you'll have to ask him). I can't remember what came next, possibly something churchy because after we talked about God, and his only son. After that came raisins,

4
a lot of listening with him. He is something else, despite all of his ridiculous stories. Like that he can read universal product code by scanning it with his eyes. But it seems like he's done quite a bit with his life. I recently learned he taught abroad, and was fired when he started teaching the students what he thought they should know, and not what the curriculum said he had to teach. Anyway, you will probably be in Vancouver by the time this arrives in Montreal, so it should be a nice surprise when you get home!

-Love Sam ~~St. John~~ St. John

"In December 2011, Samantha gave me a Christmas present of an old-fashioned letter a month so long as I replied. We have continued since that date. For her April 2017 letter, Samantha wrote to me about her visits with her Uncle John. You can check out our other letters via <http://billreimer.ca>." (Bill)



2014/01/04

"When I was little, I didn't have a very thick skin and I was intimidated by Uncle John's teasing. Don't get me wrong, he gave great Christmas presents (like a big jar of quarters that took us all to the PNE) and he made good use of his nephews like all uncles should (putting us to work folding flyers). However, I wasn't sure if he liked me.

As I grew up, I came to realize that teasing is his way of showing affection and you just have to tease him back. Plus, every time I pass through Vancouver, John always shows up for a hug and a visit. And when Isaac came along, I could see that John is just a big softie. I love watching him tease Isaac."

Michael



John playing some boogie with 1½ yr old Isaac. 2012/08



Folding flyers 1998/08

"I love being around John. He makes me feel like a million dollars. He is an encourager and a lover at heart.

I remember his amazement with our babies—their little fingers, the tiny smiles, and the way they would cuddle-in when he would hold them. He always commented at how amazing it was that we were having these babies and he made me so proud to be a mom. He is kind and warm and thoughtful and I love him.

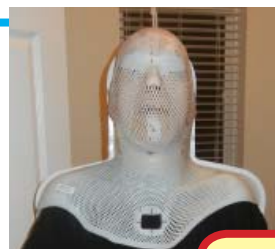
I remember him bringing all his unsorted coins to our house for the kids for Christmas. It was so great to see him at the end of the table with all those kids around him. He loves them and they love him.

I remember he and Samantha making tater tots at Grandma's house for the Bumblebee Cafe. He always takes time for the kids. I really like that about him.

I'll never forget when he arrived at my 30th birthday party wearing the mask that the doctors had made for his radiation treatments. It was a perfect Halloween costume.

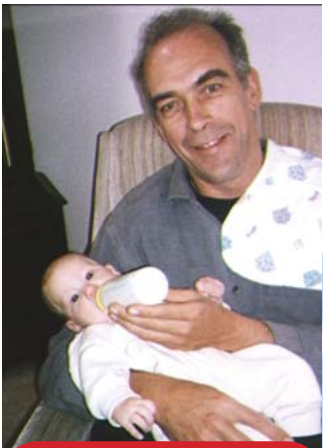
He is so confident and real. I love that about him."

Lies



Halloween 2011

The 2000s



With Thomas
(born Dec.
31st, 1999) 2000/05

Dad died Nov. 21, 2001. After the cremation, his ashes sat in a box on the mantle at Shaver Hall for a long time before we could all get together to scatter them. It was over a year later that we finally spread Jack's ashes at Pacific Spirit Park. 2002/12



Looking through photos with Aaron and Laurel in preparation for Dad's memorial. 2001/11.

2001/12



A pause in the process of moving into the 41st Ave. house. 2002/12



Taking an order at the first Bumblebee Café. It was held the morning of Jan 1, 2003 on West 41st. In those days we combined it with Thom's birthday and didn't tell him it was a day late.

The container is empty and the contents moved to W. 41st thanks to Uncle power! Daegan, Steve, and family had been living with Mum up to that time. 2002/12



The first Christmas at W. 41st Ave. 2002



Don't believe everything you hear from your uncle, Thomas! Conversation at the Bumblebee Café. 2003/01/01



Supper at Shaver Hall. 2003/06





At Shaver Hall. John always came by for visits when any of us showed up. 2004/12/27



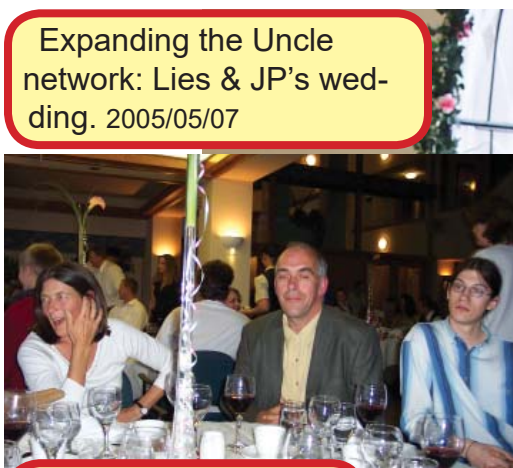
Tam-buddies. 2004/12/26



Serious nephews at E. 48th Ave. 2004/12/28



A Christmas visit to E. 48th. 2004



Expanding the Uncle network: Lies & JP's wedding. 2005/05/07



John at JP & Lies' wedding. 2005/05/07



All the Shavers were at the wedding—including Mum—but no-one thought to take a photo of us.



When Daegan and Steve moved to Victoria in June, 2005, the Bumblebee Café was moved to Mum's condo. 2006/01/01



Shaver Hall (5783 Balsam St.). 2006/12/30

Card games and meals were a common activity when the nephews showed up. 2006/01/07



With the kitchen crew at the Bumblebee Café.
2007/12/31

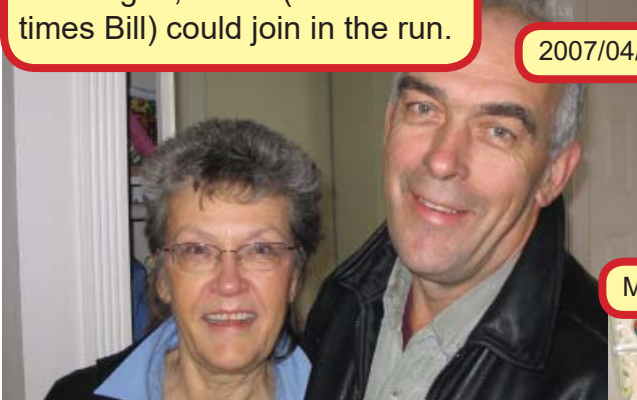


The Bumblebee Café was sometimes held on Dec 31st and sometimes on Jan 1st. For example, on the years of the New Year's Resolution Run we would have it on the 31st so Daegan, Steve (and sometimes Bill) could join in the run.

Your arrival at the Bumblebee café. "We love you, John!!!"
2007/01/01



2007/04/26



Mum loved to eat!



2007/06/17

At Peter Reimer's Memorial Picnic (Mar-en's house) 2007/06/24



Nelson Mercer, you, Lies, and Lilian at the Bumblebee Café.
2007/12/31



Another Bumblebee Café order. This time taken by Kathryn.
2007/12/31



2007/12/31

2007/12/31

And now you're a Great Uncle! With Charles Paul Reimer (born Jan 10, 2008). 2008/02/17

Another generation

Ignoring him won't work, Samantha! 2008/05/04

At the Vancouver Marathon. 2008/05/04

Breakfast after the marathon. 2008/05/04

With Charlie and JP. 2008/06/23

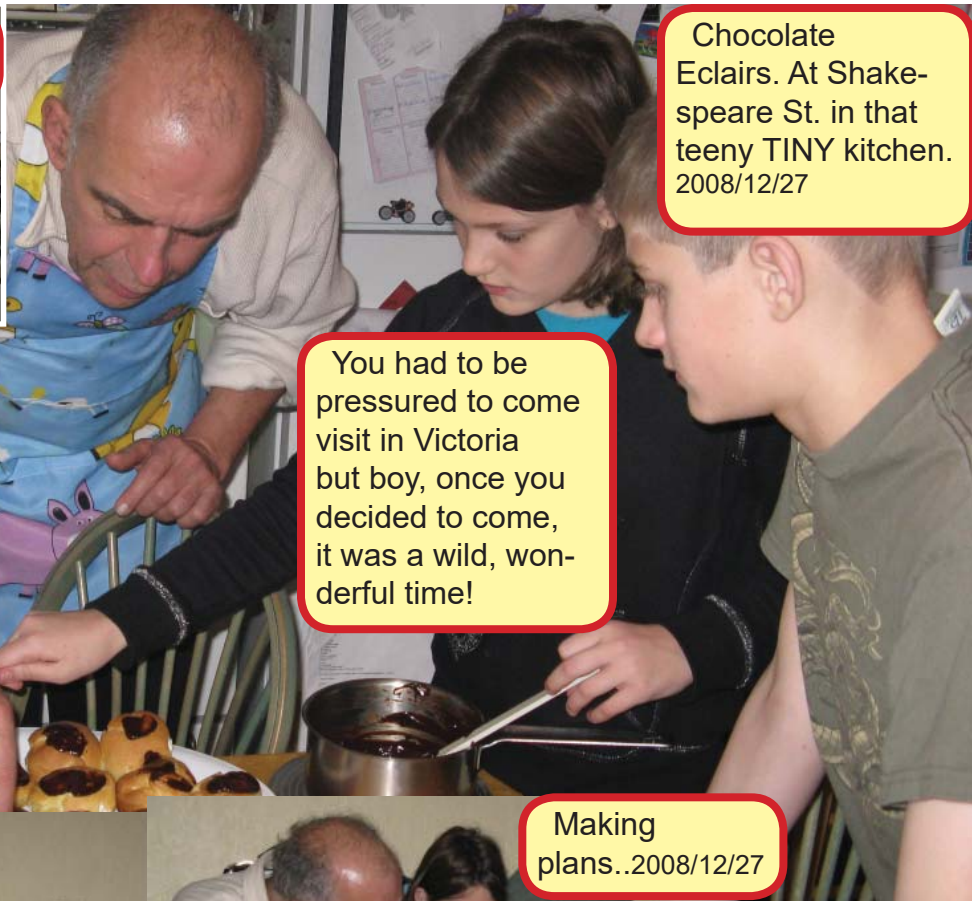
Getting your own back! A visit to Shakespeare St. in Victoria. 2008/12/26

2008/12/27

2008/12/26



Hey!!!
2008/12/27



Chocolate
Eclairs. At Shake-
speare St. in that
teeny TINY kitchen.
2008/12/27

You had to be
pressured to come
visit in Victoria
but boy, once you
decided to come,
it was a wild, won-
derful time!



Making
plans..2008/12/27



2008/12/27



2009/01/01

More eclairs
at Shaver Hall
for the Bum-
blebee Café.
2009/01/01



Ferry ride
back to Van-
couver for
New Years
and the Bum-
blebee Café.
2008/12/28



Michael and Julia
visit Vancouver.
2008/09



2008/12/31

The 2010s



More marathon action.
2009/05/03



Bowen Island
planning.
2009/12/29



Christmas 2010/01/01



Eclair
time again.
2010/01/01

"John and I started working on Bowen together in 2005 until 2016. We kind of got the job around the same time. Uncle John had known Auben forever. I would work beside him one day a week at least for almost that entire time. Even though Uncle John is not a "teacher" in a formal sense, he's from a family of teachers and he's always providing useful information, even if you don't realize it, or it seems ridiculous or long-winded. I've learned so much from him."
(Aaron)



Touring the
Bowen estate.
2009/12/29



Bowen Island
hot-tubbing.
2009/12/29

On the way to Bowen Island we watched *Love Actually* in Daegan's van. Lucky us: the one that replaced their stolen and crashed van had a TV screen in the back seat. The video has become a Christmas tradition in the Reimer-Jones family ever since. 2009/12/29



2010/01/01

In the early days of Shaver Hall, we would take over the Family Room with Shaver progeny for special events. Unfortunately, some of the new Strata members put a stop to it by redefining the room to storage.



Tiring out Uncle John.
2010/01/01



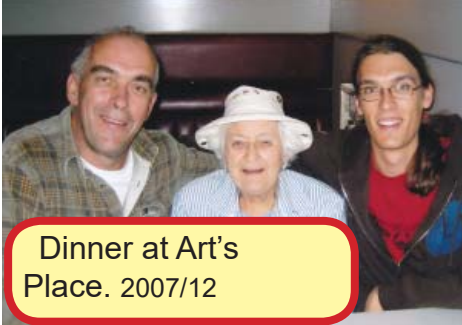
Maren Dancer,
you, Gloria Mer-
cer, Jennifer, and
Bob Mercer at
the Bumblebee
Café. 2010/01/01



Uncle John, Charlie, and Thomas at the mint green Langley house — just monkeying around. 2010/07/05



"Can I trust this guy?" 2010/07/05



Dinner at Art's Place. 2007/12



2010/12/31



An uneasy relationship with the sun and your health. 2010/08/14



Go Mum!!! 2011/01/01



Looks like more eclairs (and hugs) at Shaver Hall. 2011/01/01

Building with Charlie at the mint green house. 2011/02/23



John meets Isaac (3 months old) for the first time. 2011/06



A perfect Halloween costume preserved from your radiation therapy sessions. 2011/10/30



John, Charlie, and Thom. 2012/06/03



Campfire companions. 2012/06/03



Samantha and John. 2012/07/17





Visit to Sicamous.
2013/08/11



Pieter Jacob arrives (Sept 25,
2013). Shaver Hall. 2013/09/30



Shaver-Buss family visit to
Vancouver. 2013/11



2013/12/16



For many years, John was the
primary caregiver for Dorothy (with
Aaron and Joy's backup). Monday
was shopping and errand day, Fri-
day was supper. Both visits includ-
ed a cribbage game. 2013/12/16



What a pro!
2014/01/04



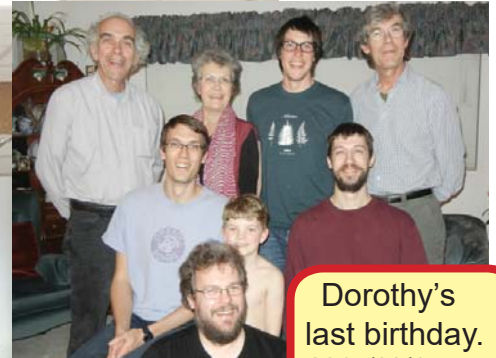
Sam, Pieter,
John. 2014/01/03

Counting and dividing up the money from Uncle John's
change jar. The continuation of a wonderful tradition—starting
with Michael and Will. 2014/12/27



Becoming an orphan

In UBC hospital waiting for the nurses to finish washing and wrapping Mum. She died two days after her 94th birthday. 2015/03/17



Dorothy's last birthday. 2015/03/15



Remembering Dorothy at the funeral home. 2015/03/26



Trying out the ball-maze puzzle with Chloe when packing and distributing Mum's things. 2015/04/04.



At Fort Langley with Evelien (born 13, April, 2015). 2015/09/27



Moving Aaron and Lisa to UBC. 2015/04/27



John flying a kite in Steveston with Wilma. 2016/05/15



A warm welcome at Aaron and Lisa's new place on the UBC campus. 2015/05/04



Wilma and John playing Bananagram at Aaron and Lisa's place. 2016/05/22



Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival. 2016/05/15



Cribbage break in Sicamous. 2016/09



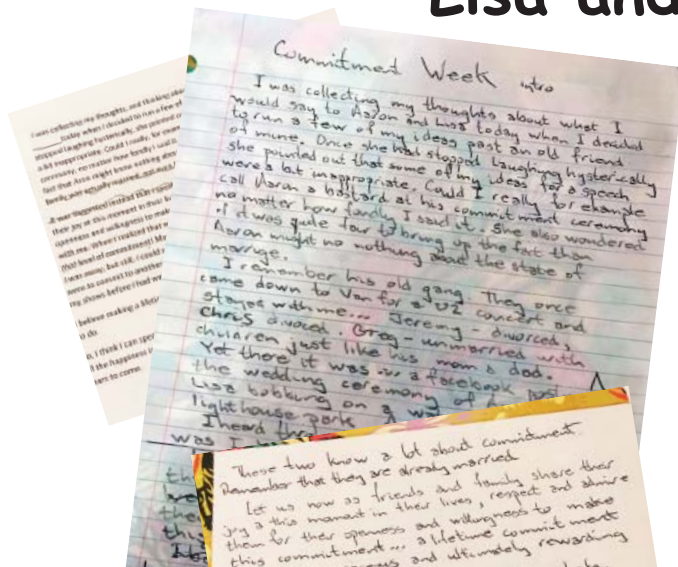
John, Bob Mercer, and Aaron after John moved from his place on Princess St. to Queens Ave. 2016/08/06



Celebrating John's birthday and Dorothy's birthing day at Aaron and Lisa's place. 2016/10/30



Lisa and Aaron's commitment



John's Presentation at Lisa and Aaron's commitment ceremony

[Taken from Bill's recording. First section is missing.]

(<http://billreimer.ca/personal/media/AaronAndLisaCommitmentJohn20160921.mp3>)

... you know ... something seems to be going on between these two ... 'cause ... I would call it like love and heartache. Like it is love, but it's love and heartache.

And then one day I say to Lisa ...

"You couldn't possibly love him as much as he loves you."

And Lisa replies, "... but I love him madly, I love him ... I'm crazy for him, I love him, I love him..."

"Lisa, it doesn't matter how much you love him, you couldn't possibly love Aaron as much as he loves you."

continued...

So I must admit my relief when, they both call me Uncle John (it's kinda sweet). And then it's...
"Uncle John, will you help us move in together?"

Absolutely! Fantastic! [...] meaning to. I wonder what's going on. I'll be there,
"I'll help you move in together. This is wonderful news! "

Then... that was well over a year ago as time flies... a new e-mail from Lisa.
"Will ya, will ya speak at our commitment ceremony?"
"What?"
"Ya, we're going to be having this commitment ceremony in a..."

... it was way in the future. It was to be today, but the email came early in the spring.
"Will ya come to our commitment ceremony and speak?"
"Absolutely! Absolutely!"

So, I'm collecting my thoughts. What am I gonna say? So I run a few of my ideas by an old friend. When she stopped laughing hysterically...
"You know, John, I don't think anything you've said yet is appropriate."

So I went, ok, well, I'll tell those jokes way before the service, and when I get to the commitment ceremony, I'll just mention that... you know.

The other really exciting day for me was May 31st, I think it was.
"Hey John, com'ere." called a friend. "Come and see this Facebook posting." ... and it's Aaron and Lisa getting married!

What? Who knows about this? They've eloped? What?

They seemed to be bobbing around on a boat. I think they're off Lighthouse Park in Vancouver. There's ... I know that...that's Judge Judy.

Well apparently, Aaron's good friend Judge Judy... This is her last formal act before she retires. She's going to marry Aaron to our Lisa.

How do you arrange such a thing? How do you get on a water taxi, take a detour, and while we're out there bobbing around on the water, I'm going to get married.

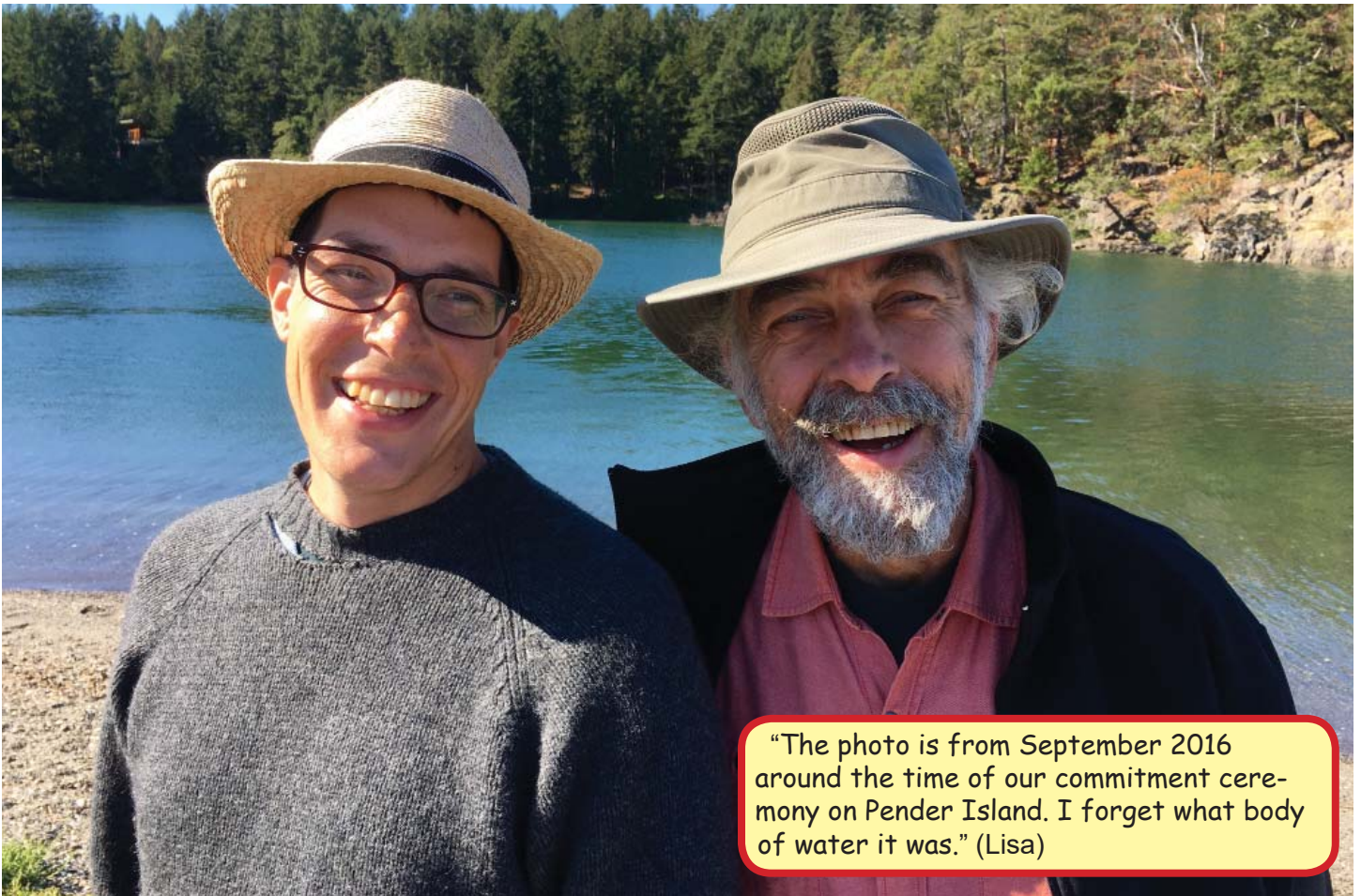
You know. I just go, Excellent Arrangement. Only Aaron could have done this. And I go. I kind of put it down to this: I love you, let's do this. I love you, let's do this. Let's just get married. Let's elope. Let's get married.

So they made my job so easy today. Because I mean ... if we're talking about commitment I'll just mention one thing. This lovely young couple is married. They know all about commitment. They know all about commitment. So this is all I'd like to say.

That as friends and family today let's share their joy of this moment, and respect and admire them for their openness and willingness to make this commitment for us: a lifetime commitment — courageous, and ultimately, I would believe, a very rewarding thing for them to do.

So may I speak for all of us here today?
"Aaron and Lisa, we wish you all the happiness in the world at this the ahh — oh at this the fourth month of your journey together in the years to come."

Uncle John
2016/09/20



"The photo is from September 2016 around the time of our commitment ceremony on Pender Island. I forget what body of water it was." (Lisa)



Hangingout after Sunday dinner.
2016/10/05

Daegan, Sam, and Fran visited the Christmas Maze in Vancouver. "John hooked up with us. This photo was taken at a coffee stop after our maze walk-about." (Fran):
2016/12/09





Cleanup from Lisa and Aaron's baby gender reveal picnic. The main event was a cake with the baby's gender hidden by the colour of the filling. Only the chef knew the colour until it was cut. 2017/08/07



Bean card game, Samantha, John, Matt, and Aaron. 2017/08/13



"The filling was blue!" 2017/08/07



More cribbage. 2017/08/20



Sunday night dinner at Lisa and Aaron's. 2017/09/17



"Sometime in December 2016, symbolizing the start of 2 new traditions: (1) Sunday dinners in Vancouver with Uncle John, Aaron, Samantha, and me and (2) Samantha teaching us all how to use Snapchat (the effects of the photo are compliments of Snapchat)." (Lisa)



"These two are from (Canadian) Thanksgiving 2016 in Sicamous. Rachelle, Uncle John, Aaron, and I drove together to and from Vancouver in a rent-a-car." (Lisa)



March 26, 2017 at Commodore Lanes on Granville Street. "A Canucks game competed for Aaron and Uncle John's attention (the Jets ultimately won!)" (Lisa)





"John and Aaron testing some home-grown popcorn, October 2, 2016. Aaron says this popcorn was grown on Bowen Island — a lot of work, very low yield, but tasty! The photo shows their test to see what % would pop — and 97% popped!" (Lisa)



Enjoying Korean barbecue. "This was actually the first celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary (2017/05/06). Early by one day but a celebration none the less. We happened to be in Vancouver for a memorial scattering of Great Grandma Reimer and her brother Clifford's ashes. It was also the first time Bill and I met Matt, Sam's new boyfriend." (Fran) 2017/05/05



"Some time in the spring [2017], Lisa, Aaron, and John came and met me at work one Sunday because I was working late. We went to the suite for dinner." (Samantha)



"Sometime in July 2017, Aaron and Lisa were away, so for dessert John and I went to try Bubble Tea. He didn't get the tapioca balls, but got stars instead. He enjoyed shooting them out of the straw." (Samantha)

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people
and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics
and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in
others;
To leave the world a bit better, whether
by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a
redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived.

"This poem reminds me of
Uncle John." (Lisa)

This is to have succeeded.
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Another letter



"Sam made strawberry shortcake for us at a Sunday dinner. Traditionally, Uncle John brings dessert for Sunday dinners, but this time Samantha cooked everything from scratch in our apartment." (Lisa)
2017/05/07

"Uncle John is a unique man. When we were young he would often say he disliked us grand-nieces and nephews. Though he says I was an adorable child, I have also heard that I was a complete brat that would poke fun at him. He's always been around at Christmas times for the Bumble Bee Café and different family events. He was always the odd-ball Uncle John.

I can't remember exactly how it started but one day I asked him for money as a joke. When he offered it, I laughed and said I was kidding. This led him to saying that I had to be confident when I asked for money. This started my getting 20\$ every so often for groceries or "rent" as he would like to say. During my first year of college, my everyday boots decided to start leaking so I decided to save for a pair of Blundstones, since I'd heard they were good quality. I told him I was wanting 20\$ to put towards my boot-fund because my old ones were leaking and my feet were getting wet. He told me "twenty dollars won't be enough for Blundstones", so I proceeded to explain I had a better chance of getting twenty than two hundred. I later learned I must have pulled on some of his heart strings (he told Fran and Bill about this so they'll have to elaborate that part of the story) because he decided to buy the boots for me.

John, Lisa, and Aaron would have dinners on Sunday nights. Since I was new to Vancouver I was invited over, but didn't attend often at all that first year.

I've learned a few things about him:

- He is almost always the last person done dinner
- He talks, a lot
- He dropped out of academia after getting his BA (or was it a BSc?)

But there is so much more I still seem to be learning from him. Recently I learned he worked overseas as a teacher at a private school, but was fired when he was teaching the students what he thought they should learn and not what they were supposed to learn.

Recently I had to cancel on two dinners because of end of term projects. I got a call from him asking where I was. He then exclaimed "Oh so you finally have a life" to which I said "Not really—I've just got homework I have to finish". He explained that I now must have a life because I am not spending my Sunday evenings with an old uncle and new parents. He is always commenting on how I would rather spend my Sunday evenings with them instead of off being a young adult.

Though he used to be the uncle I would see sometimes when I was in town, he has now become a weekly thing. I will probably be forever learning about his life and his past adventures."

Samantha



"It was wonderful watching Uncle John 'at work' on Pender Island during our 50th wedding anniversary celebrations in August 2017." (Fran)

John helping Lies get Evelien and Pieter into the pool. 2017/08/28



The billiard table provided attractive entertainment for Piet, Charlie, and John. 2017/08/28



We were delighted when the instruments came out—and the young kids joined in with John's encouragement. 2017/08/28



Return to Pender Island



What's the topic of conversation? 2017/08/29



On the way down to visit Buddha Cottage. 2017/08/30



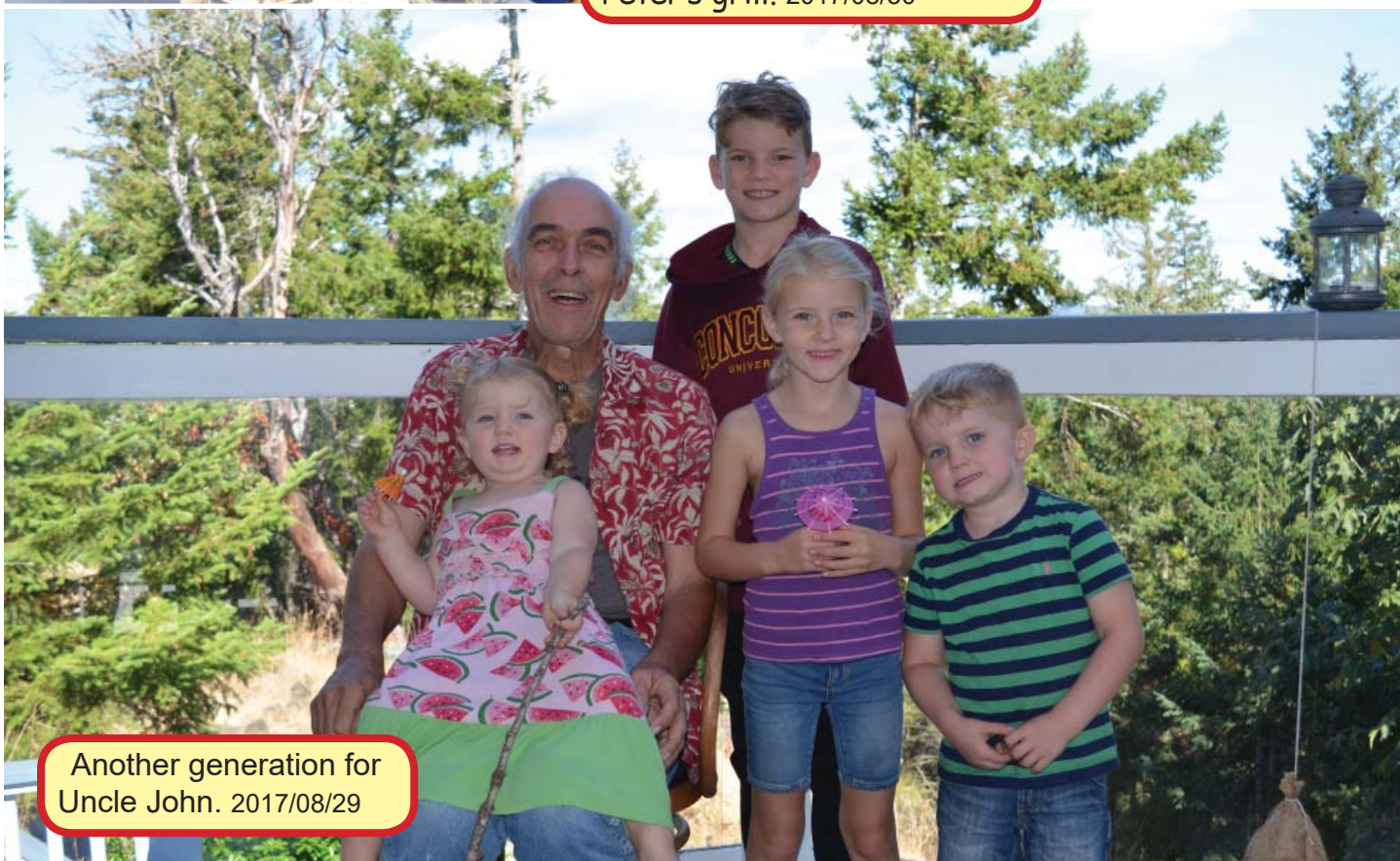
Breakfast conversation.
2017/08/30



Game time. 2017/08/31



John's turn to cook:
burritos with all the fixings
plus salad (one of his
signature dishes). He used
Peter's grill. 2017/08/30



Another generation for
Uncle John. 2017/08/29



The whole crowd as of Wednesday afternoon, Aug 30, 2017. John left Thursday afternoon. Daegan and family arrived Thursday and Lisa arrived on Friday. Aaron left Wednesday after the photo.



On Thursday Aug 31st, John flew home. 2017/08/31



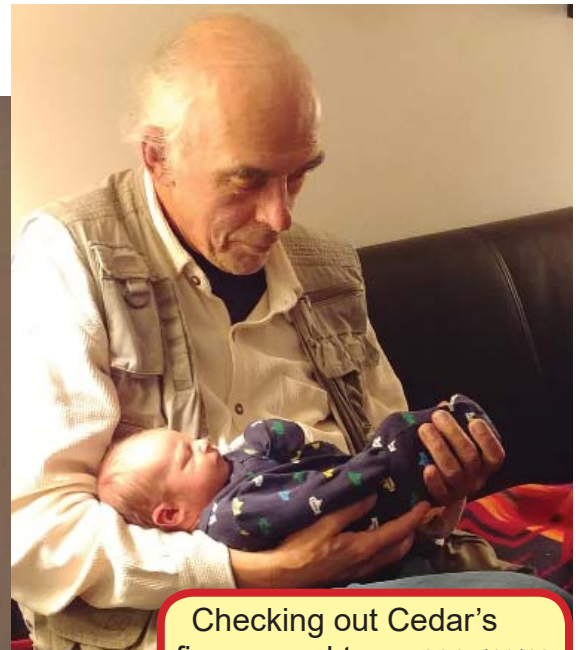
On Thursday Aug 31st, John flew home. He asked the pilot if he could ride in the front seat, and the pilot said "sure!" 2017/08/31



Linda and John waiting for the seaplane. 2017/08/31



The Newest Grand-Nephew



Checking out Cedar's fingers and toes. 2017/11/12

Cedar Brunner Colin was born at home on Nov. 6th, 2017, at 11:38 am. He was 8 lbs, 55cm (or 3.6 kg, 21.65 in. for those otherwise confused).



John, Cedar, and Lisa. 2017/11/12



We love you, Uncle John!

The Last Word

Daegan, Steve, Zachary, Thomas, and Lies were at the Pender Island event, but we missed an opportunity to get them all together for a photo with "Uncle John".



"John is also a great brother!" (Fran)

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December, 2017
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