



2010



Hi Folks!

Well here we are again, taking a break from making shortbread to reflect on an incredibly exciting year, thanks largely to the Canadian Navy and its 100th Anniversary celebrations. For the first time we've been all across the country in one year, from Cape Spear in Nfld to the west coast of Vancouver Island, and in between spent more time afloat since 1962. We hope it's been a good and full year for you as well as you prepare for the Christmas season. For us, the year began at a gentle pace, with Bill ending his contract with Huron Diocese and Trinity Church, Cambridge. In March we enjoyed our winter getaway with Alan and Helen Dixon up at Yukes lake. But in April, everything speeded back up – with Bill off to Winnipeg to co-lead a course on Interim ministry for 19 Anglican, and one United Church clergy. And for the first time he developed “floaters” in both eyes, and is now being regularly examined for potential retinal detachment. In May, we again did the Spring cruise down the Trent to Gananoque with OWCruises, while Bill took a break from painting, polishing scuttles and hosting tours aboard HMCS Haida. At the beginning of June, we drove to St. Louis Missouri for the Interim Ministry Network's AGM, and then began the great naval summer by heading to Halifax for the International Fleet Review, and renewing friendships with Peter & Anne Vaughan, as well as seeing their majesties “Up close and personal”. Jette's pictures below (not telephotos!). That was followed by AGM's for HMCS Sackville trust, and the Naval Officers Ass'n of Canada.



Then, after a tour around the Cabot Trail, we boarded the ferry for a UNTD reunion in St. John's, and a tour Nfld & Labrador, where, besides meeting some great people, we saw whales, seals, puffins, gannets, the set of “Random Passage”, Gros Morne, the Viking settlements at L'Anse aux Meadows, a new historical tapestry of the French Shore, and ice bergs off the coast of Labrador. Fifty years after he was last in Corner Brook, Bill met a seminary classmate, Dave Russell, whom we hadn't seen for 30 years. On the way home we enjoyed a visit with David Sinclair and Georgia Copland, in their home on Lac Marois. During the trip, Jette managed to crochet the world's largest granny square (queen-sized). Altogether we logged over 10,000 kms, and going 150 kms past the end of the paved road in Labrador cost us four tires and two shocks, but, says Bill, “It was worth it!!!” August saw Bill covering services at the Cathedral in Hamilton, and taking tours on the Haida, interrupted by a delightful week at the cottage of David & Mimi Mitchell on Lake Weslemkoon.

In September, HMCS Fredericton visited Hamilton, providing a marvellous tour of that Frigate, followed by a reception for the officers aboard HMCS Haida – an interesting contrast in technology & weapons, and the surprising recognition that Haida was the faster vessel. In mid-September we enjoyed another cottage interval in Muskoka with Bob and Laura Morris. Later that month life took a sadder turn with the deaths of one of Bill's seminary classmates, Ron Walker, and a former principal at GCVI, Jack Burns (both very near Bill's age). But the month ended well with a UNTD “Dine-the Ladies” cruise aboard the Yankee Lady IV around the Toronto Harbour and island canals.

October began with Homecoming at Huron/UWO, a significant one, marking Bill's 30 anniversary of his graduation from the M.Div. program. We enjoyed his sister's hospitality in London, and concluded the weekend with dinner at the Churchkey with Betty & Geoff.

At the end of the month, we flew to Victoria, and picked up a car to drive north to Nanaimo for a two part visit with Jette's brother Steen, and his wife, Charlene. We used the Brentwood Bay ferry (photo below) to bypass the Malahat Parkway (next photo), a trip called "Vancouver Island's most beautiful shortcut", according to the 6ft tall letters on the ferry. In between stays in Nanaimo, we went S to Victoria to meet with Lew and Betty Townsend.



Bill and Lew (photo above) met in Cornwallis as UNTD cadets in the summer of 1960, then lost track of each other until the Centennial celebrations reconnected them over a great luncheon at his golf club. We then headed up island, sampling estate wines along the way, and visiting museums, art galleries, and other interesting sites, including several close encounters with the black-tailed deer who infest every community, including the naval base at Esquimalt. After another couple of days in Nanaimo, we headed down to Esquimalt for our final naval celebration of the year, a reunion of UNTD/ROTP cadets. The view from our room in the Wardroom at the base was spectacular, as was the 3+hour cruise aboard HMCS Orca, the first of the new patrol/navigation training vessels. Bill officiated at an evening service at St. Paul's Esquimalt, where Rear Admiral Bill Hughes interpreted the centennial west window that had been installed earlier this year. After the Mess dinner, we had a chance to explore around Victoria, to see the Centennial "Homecoming Statue" to which the UNTD's had contributed, and to renew our acquaintance with "Mikey" the wild harbour seal who entertains folks at Fisherman's Wharf.



We returned just in time for Veterans Week and the great round of Remembrance Services over which Bill now presides, ending with the "Tugboat Service" for the Burl-Oak Naval Vets, usually held out on Lake Ontario, but this year confined to 16 Mile Creek because of storm waves (and some tender stomachs). Ian continues to enjoy Guelph, his work as quality control engineer, and his photography (see Flickr's "ICT_Photo"). Kim, like Bill, will need work on her eyes, with two cataract operations in January & February. She continues to enjoy her work as an E.A. at Dundana elementary school, her condo in Dundas, and riding her bike with us on the beach and rail trails, as well as shopping in the GTA.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas, and a Happy New Year,

Jette & Bill