

Fran and Bill's 2018 Reflections

Fran's September 2017 retirement and my multiple myeloma set us up for an eventful, capricious, and stimulating 2018. Instead of the calm and relaxing period I imagined in my 50s, retirement has turned out to be a period of rebirth: where my old body has transitioned to a new, more enigmatic one; our many travel adventures have been driven more by family than research; and (fortunately) the ghosts of the past visit at the slightest provocation.

The year began with a round of travel to Ottawa in January (Fran's HIV grant evaluation jury); La Peñita and Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico in March; Pasadena, CA in March (to visit our friend from graduate school days); Stowe, VT in April (for our annual relaxation week); and San Diego, CA in April (Fran—for her Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Board Meeting). We had a bit of a break in May, but were then off to Toronto—for the Law and Society international conference to join in the celebration of Fran's retirement.

Her colleagues organized a special panel session and dinner to honour Fran's 50 years of research and advocacy work. Four presentations inspired by Fran's research were presented and discussed before we adjourned to a special dinner.

You can read about Fran's 50 years and enjoy some of the comments she received by reading the booklet I produced via <http://billreimer.net/fmshaver/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/FiftyYearsOfSexWorkResearchInCanada20180808ThirdEdition.pdf>



This recognition was capped a month later when Stella (Montréal's foremost sex workers' advocacy group) awarded her their first Lifetime Achievement award. It was a remarkable and satisfying recognition of the many years in which Fran has persevered (with more failures than successes) to understand, document, and advocate to improve the health and safety of people working in the sex industry.

In August, we headed out to BC to enjoy a couple of months with family. Daegan and Steve are in Victoria with Zachary (22), Samantha (21), and Thomas (18). JP and Lies are in Fort Langley with Charlie (10), Chloe (8), Pieter (5), and Evelien (3).

One highlight was a circle tour to Sicamous, BC that we took with Chloe in August. It was her turn for a summer visit with us—one that became an eight-day Westfalia trip. It confirmed JP's teen insight that "We live for the memories." and it was a delightful occasion to create new ones for the future. We included Bromley Rocks on our trip north to meet the ghosts of Pete, Bill, and Robert (my brothers) at the fishing spots and call up those of John (Fran's brother), JP, and Steven (my nephew) on our way to the interior many years ago.



We were delighted that all 5 Shaver siblings were able to join us at Wilma (Fran's sister) and Gary's once we reached Sicamous—although it was a bit strange to find we fit in so well at the seniors' centre. Chloe didn't seem to mind hanging out with all the old folk—especially since she found a lost dog to play with. Fortunately, we were able to find the dog's owner before our departure.

Our return via the Fraser canyon added to our memory bank as Chloe developed her knapping skill on the rocks by the bank of the Thompson, scaled the wall at Hell's Gate, and peered through the Alexandria Bridge roadbed to the rushing river below.

Our lives have been structured by my monthly visits to the Montréal cancer clinic for blood tests, the occasional biopsy, and consultation as part of my medical regime for multiple myeloma. The good news is that I have responded well to the therapy—so much so, that the oncologist reported that I was in remission in November—the 2nd anniversary of my treatment. He suggested we continue the regime since it seemed to be working, so I have settled in to living in my "new

body"—including the sense that I am walking on sand (as a result of medication-induced neuropathy in my feet and fingers), reduced energy, and "motormouth" (as Fran identifies it) after my weekly dose of steroids.

Daegan and Steve are facing their own transitions as Zachary, Samantha, and now Thomas move from high school to the world outside. Zachary is looking buff as a result of his construction work job—and it has allowed him to fit in some travelling (to the UK in August). Samantha recently completed her 6-month internship at Disney World in Florida so will be heading back to Langara College to complete the other courses in her Recreation Administration BA degree. Her time in Florida will count toward her degree. We were delighted to join Daegan and her in Orlando—especially since her experience there allowed us to avoid much of the hype as she carefully guided us to the more interesting venues. You can check out the details of her semester via <https://samanthadoesdisney.wordpress.com/>.

Once again Thomas was selected as part of the Canadian Fullbore Rifle team to compete in the international event at Bisley, UK. His team did very well—receiving an overall good performance designation. We were charmed by the photo of the Canadian Rifle Team (of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association) he sent us—a plethora of old fogeys, with three young people (Thomas and two young women). It is lovely to see the intergenerational mix. He will be travelling to New Zealand from Jan 23rd, 2019 to Feb 11th as part of the Canadian Palma Team (Palma is a style of shooting). He'll be shooting as part of the Under 25 and Senior teams.



Daegan continues her 5am wakeups to head out on the water with her rowing buddies—and sometimes Steve joins her. They both seem to have adjusted to the appearance and occasional overnight of Zachary and Thomas' friends as word about the convenience of their location for school and job-hunting gets out. If our experience is any indication, these occasional guests get wonderful treatment.

As if raising 4 kids, teaching dozens of others, band performances, supporting two business enterprises, woodworking, major home renovations, and feeding the homeless were not enough, Lies enrolled in an MBA program this year, and JP began transitioning into a new enterprise from his career in teaching. He has now become the owner of a business making wooden tabletops for bars, pubs, restaurants, and boardrooms (see <http://claterpult.com> and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMKsr8pIBRV7-OREGLsK9ZQ?view_as=public). Many of the pieces are specialty items—sometimes 10 feet in length with "live edge" or special design features. The work includes plenty of the design challenges which he likes and he still has time to explore his own designs in his home workshop. He maintains his option for teaching by serving as "Teacher On Call" when time allows.

Lies is now into the third semester of her MBA—and showing the high performance results we have come to expect of her. Much of the program is online, so it allows her to work at home and find the hours she needs to fulfill her other job at Advance Flooring (her father's business).

Charlie is now going to the local elementary school in Fort Langley after five years at French school (les Voyageurs). Chloe continues at les Voyageurs in grade three, Pieter is now in Maternelle, and Evelien is in Pre-maternelle. They all seem to accept the demands of structured education and show an easy transition from English to French. It is lovely to hear the mix of languages around the house.

We are now winding up the year with JP, Lies, and their gang in Fort Langley for Christmas, then take a ferry ride to visit with Daegan, Steve, and their three in Victoria. We will be celebrating Thom's 19th birthday on December 31st and join in the annual Bumblebee Café at Daegan and Steve's to start the new year.

We delight in the many ways in which our family and friends enrich our lives even though we are often far apart. We willingly share the burden of your worries and concerns and take joy in your stories of celebration. Thank you for including us among your circle of friends.

Frank and Bill

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