

Fran and Bill's 2020 Reflections: Changing Eras

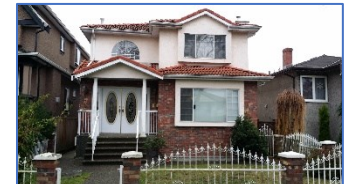
Forty-eight years ago we decided to move to Québec. Bill had been offered a one-year appointment at Sir George Williams University and we were both excited to live in a very different culture, establish new friendships, and even learn a new language. The accidental wisdom of our choice emerged over the 48 years since then—as short-term appointments were transformed into long-term employment, our children grew with experiences, skills, and perspectives that bring joy to us, and Fran's career blossomed

(<http://billreimer.net/fmshaver/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/FiftyYearsOfSexWorkResearchInCanada20180808ThirdEdition.pdf>).



Ile-Bigras, QC

This year (2020) we moved back to BC. Both Daegan and JP had settled on the west coast with their own families—including our seven grandchildren—and the signs were clear that our capacity for a big move was declining. If we were to make such a move, now would be the time. Living as we are now—among the remaining boxes and incomplete renovations—we are reminded how prudent this second big decision was to be.



Vancouver, BC

It came with some huge losses, of course, as we packed up the artifacts of our Québec activities, said goodbye to our many friends, and prepared our beloved Ile Bigras home for sale. We found ourselves in a deep space of mourning as the move date approached and the madness of last-minute packing, house and car sale, then COVID emerged (see <http://www.billreimer.net/moving-to-bc-july-2020>).



Summer Kitchen with COVID, 2002

We were welcomed by family on our arrival, in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions. Our back porch and yard were turned into a summer kitchen by Wilma and Gary and the parks, forests, and beaches of the Vancouver region allowed us the luxury of safe visits with old and young.

We enjoyed the company of Wilma and Gary while they visited their son Aaron, daughter-in-law Lisa, and grandchildren Cedar and Evren. Wilma stayed on for two additional months or so to help with childcare—establishing one of our rooms as the “Wilma room” to match another as “Lisa’s Office”. This allowed us to keep up-to-date on their lives since Lisa regularly hung out in her office for some PhD and teaching work away from the distractions of infants.

We are now settling into our new digs. It is quite a change from last Christmas when all our children and grandchildren joined us at Ile Bigras. Thankfully, our granddaughter Samantha (23) came up from our basement suite, took initiative, and inspired Fran to deck our halls and troll the Yule-tide carols. With the help of the internet, and the arrival of our new double-oven on Dec. 22nd, we were able to enjoy a long-distance family meal with Daegan, Steve, Zachary (24), and Thomas (21) in Victoria and JP, Lies, Charlie (12), Chloe (10), Pieter (7), and Evelien (5) in Fort Langley. Our WhatsApp record is now full of comparisons among 3 turkey recipes and menus.

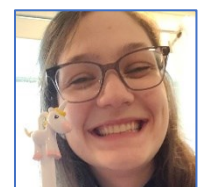


Finally—Our new oven



Victoria gang: Steve, Thomas, Daegan, Zach

Daegan and Steve have been nicely setup by their employers with home office options so are weathering the pandemic with a safe base. Zachary lost his construction job with the shutdown, but has been able to find a warehousing option that has kept him afloat. Thomas has recovered from his motorcycle accident and supplements his compensation payment with work at a donut shop. Both of the boys are living at home. Samantha lives with us in our basement suite and although she lost her job to COVID, has been quickly successful in finding another one as recreation planner at a seniors' centre near us (in Delta). Her degree in Recreation Administration seems to be paying off.



Samantha

JP and Lies have also managed the pandemic challenge. JP continues to receive orders at his Claterpult Woodworks business (<http://claterpult.ca>)—with enough of them providing him with the design challenges he loves. Lies completed her MBA and has gone on to manage an enterprise providing art pieces to businesses like hotels and corporations. Charlie is now in the local elementary school and the other three are in a nearby French-language school. Not to be outdone, Charlie is also adding a bit of hən'q'əminəm' in the Aboriginal Program at his school.



JP, Lies, Charlie, Chloe, Pieter, Evelien

Among all the unpacking and organizing, Fran and I continue to enjoy our connections with friends and colleagues. Fran remains engaged with her sex work research networks in her Emeritus role and makes good use of online Zumba classes to keep in shape. I have kept my research activities alive in my new role as Archivist for the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (<http://crrf.ca>) along with occasional committee activities. I love the twin processes of learning about the challenges of archiving while I review the many years of our research on rural communities. Some of the archiving tips have also been useful for dealing with personal materials as our move unfolds.

My health has stabilized into remission with a weekly and 28-day cycle of medication and lifestyle. The greatest challenge is fatigue, but we seem to have adjusted to a shortened allocation of working hours that can be justified by old age as well as myeloma.

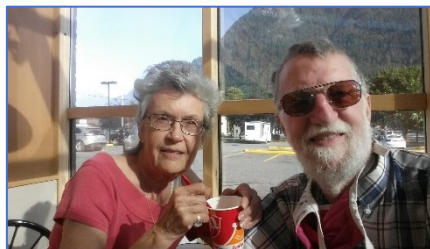
From the new vantage point in our lives, we take extra delight in the news and stories of our friends and family. Like our own experiences, they reflect wonderful mosaics of ups and downs, challenges, successes, and surprises. We gratefully acknowledge how much your connections with our lives ensure that the ups overwhelm the downs.



Christmas Dinner 2020



New Socks



FnB in Hope—2 hours to go

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Frank and Bill

