

Yup, it's time for the dreaded annual (late) letter to bring you cheer and news from Victoria, where we live to gloat in the rain. It hasn't been a particularly outstanding year for us here so I'm thinking this will be kept to a minimum...pauses for the cheers and sighs of relief to roll to a stop.

Mark is still traveling for work. A conference in October took him back to the homeland of the Fraser clan (and some mighty fine single malt whisky). Then, just to keep the southern Hemisphere happy, a quick trip to Brazil. I think he spent more time in the airports than at any of the destinations but that's why they pay him the big bucks.

Nicole is officially in the Criminology program at Camosun College. Where this will lead we have yet to be informed but I'm sure there's a C.S.I. series about it. I'm hoping Michelle Pfeifer will play me in the cameos. As soon as we know, you'll know.

Rachael is in her 2nd year studying history and drinking at UVic. No word on the exchange program with England but she has been practising with the Victoria Children's Choir again for a European tour planned in the summer. Details to follow in, ah, next year's Christmas letter, maybe.

After a year my voice has finally dragged itself back, somewhat worse for the wear and refusing to reveal where it's been all this time. At least I can be heard across the table. Not so thrilled with this are other members of the family but they'll learn to adjust.

Mr. Fergus and Squatch the cat are still best of friends - or so Fergus thinks. He has yet to figure out cats don't usually chase dogs in the normal scheme of things; fortunately, he's pretty quick on those little feet.

There is another whole fam damily Blaseckie trip to Mexico looming in the New Year, courtesy of Mark's parents. I still haven't figured out why they are paying for my ticket but, heck, I'm just going to say thank you and pack the sun tan lotion.

It's a time to feel thankful for every blessing but I'm not so sure I can count that high. In the meantime, I hope all is well in your life and that the New Year brings as much happiness as you can stand and then a little bit more for good measure.