

- 2018 -

The Walton-Knights

British Columbia, Canada



We have been blessed richly this year. We celebrated twenty years of marriage. We have three healthy children, two of whom are now taller than their mother. We took family holidays skiing at Apex and at Revelstoke in British Columbia, and then a summer holiday in Oregon surfing, shooting and drifting across the high desert plains. Jamie has celebrated her one-year anniversary with us and is fully part of the family.

This year Matthew celebrated reaching fifty whilst in Revelstoke. With time on his hands, he started the year skiing more than the instructors on Mount Seymour, whilst overseeing major renovations at Nicola's medical office. His company took off nicely in the spring with a strong collection of clients that should continue well into next year and beyond. He is collecting airmiles again in abundance. Since August, he has overseen the design-build-finance and in due course operation of a biosolids facility on Vancouver Island. He travels there once or twice a week, initially by float plane which was much fun as it danced across the waves and then leapt into the sky; as the days shorten and nights draw in, he now takes a helicopter. He has also joined the Governance Board of St Andrew's Hall – the Presbyterian college at the University of British Columbia.

Nicola has worked and worked this year, building her family physician's office; it's more enjoyable now that Matthew is back in full time employment! Her business celebrated its one-year anniversary and she is part of the Parkgate community. She continues providing medical support to missionaries, leading the Mission's team, singing in the choir and serving as an Elder at church. She really enjoys spending time with the kids individually and the conversations that develop. She rides Louie each week and became a proficient groom at Ellie's horse shows. She takes Beth to track practice and goes for a run herself! She was in Toronto for a mission conference in September and is looking forward to a trip to the UK in the first days of January together with Joshua.

Eleanor now 17, is in her final Grade 12 year at Windsor High School: graduation parties and dresses are being planned, together with university applications to read mechanical engineering. She finished her last school year on the Honour Roll again, which was wonderful. Ellie loved skiing at Revelstoke with deep powder and thigh aching long runs. She has spent another wonderful year with Louie, jumping him at 3 shows; Thunderbird,



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Milner and Southlands. At Thunderbird she stayed out with him for the week together with a group of friends. Visiting Oregon, she had real grace as she learnt to surf Pacific breakers and was wowed by the volcanos and dryness of the high plains. She will soon be old enough to sit her driving test!

Bethany now 15, continues in the French immersion program at Windsor High School. She finished last year on the Honour Roll with distinction, collecting both top student and the Math Medal. Bethany's athletic club training several times each week delivered her a place to the BC Summer Games where she made the finals in 100 metres, 200 metres and the four by 100 metres relay. September saw Bethany in Ottawa for a week with a federal education program that included visits to Parliament, the Supreme Court and the home of the Governor General. In October, she visited French speaking Montreal with Daddy for a weekend. They visited McGill University where Bethany is considering reading economics. To relax, she took Daddy axe throwing in Montreal, which was even more fun than it sounds!

Joshua now 12, is in his final year at Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School before entering high school next year. His reading has leapt forward during the year and he can be found reading books for pleasure at home. He continues with his karate collecting orange and green belts. This summer, he spend enjoyable weeks adventurous training at Camp Douglas and at Timberline Camp. He enjoyed learning to surf in Oregon and shooting too. The summer also saw him at sailing and at paddle-board camps; his interest in the marine environment is developing. Over Labour Day, he went canoeing and camping with Daddy in the spectacular scenery of Indian Arm: it was excellent man-time together. They canoed whilst surrounded by pods of seals, otters with young and with eagles soaring overhead.

We are thankful every day for God's many blessings and the beauty of the creation all around us in British Columbia. We send you our warmest wishes.

Matthew, Nicola, Eleanor, Bethany & Joshua

waltonknight@mac.com | www.waltonknight.com

