

Adam: Adam has had a great year academically, finishing two books, the first of which was published a few weeks ago by Oxford University Press. It's a project he's been working on for maybe ten years, so it's immensely satisfying to see it published. Healthwise, it has not been a brilliant year, as his walking range has diminished rather and he had a long bout of shoulder pain after some arduous walking. But he has discovered the invigorating effects of mocha chillers from his local cafe near his apartment in Vancouver's West End. He divides his week between Bowen and Vancouver; he's able to swim and get good exercise in town.

Animals: April saw the arrival of Amos & Baxter, 11 year old dachshund littermates rescued from a shelter in Oregon, who we initially fostered then adopted. We hadn't known anything about daxies but soon discovered their hilarious way of putting themselves to bed by grabbing blankets in their mouths and weaving them over themselves. Equally hilarious was Baxter's habit of lying exactly on top of his bro, captured by Adam in a photo we call Stack of Dax. Alas, it soon became clear that Baxter's health was poor: some kind of tumour in the lungs, seriously messing up his breathing. The vet drained his lungs in July and again in November, but in early December I decided to end his struggle for breath. RIP Baxter: a rather anxious but very sweet dog.

During the summer we fostered two miniature daxies rescued from California. Bess & Eddy were real characters and we both became attached to them. They adored Adam from the get-go and later on would snuggle up with me at night. Luckily the perfect adopter was found. In November I was able to bring up from Seattle two ancient and very ugly pugs, Buddy (15) and Junior (13). We call Buddy Gramps, as he is so very old. They are really amiable dogs, not a lot of work, beyond the fact that Gramps can't really do stairs. So now we have five dogs, all aged 11 or more, but all doing fine.

Bowen: Life on Bowen refreshes me and helps me cope with my job. The beauties I experience on a daily basis while out walking the dogs are priceless. We had swallows at our nestbox again this year and more hummingbirds than ever. We went on a wonderful "owl prow" with a nature group. In the summer I swam in the phosphorescence more than once. I have stepped up my involvement at BIRD, the Bowen Island Recycling Depot, and now get to wear the "Ask Me" vest, as a volunteer educator. My women's book group on Bowen continues to be a great source of friendship, as well as educational (we actually tackled Proust this spring). In collaboration with another animal lover, I have started an occasional column called "Animal Affairs" in the Bowen Island newspaper, *The Undercurrent*.

Music: I started jazz bass lessons in the spring with a wonderful teacher on Bowen. These are a great joy as well as the hardest mental workout in my week. My band Deer In The Headlights sadly lost our energetic lead singer Janice but was able to recruit Candice, whose versatility and range is extraordinary. We've had gigs all through the year, all on Bowen, at Docs, at Bowfest (the main stage - at last!), the Rotary Stage next to the Snug Cafe, and at the Pub. Doing Led Zeppelin's "Ramble On" was a challenge and a triumph for us all. We got so tight we went into studio to capture the magic; maybe we'll make a CD next year? Still to come is the Spirit of Solstice event that I am co-organising on 21st December, at which I will sing my favourite Christmas song ever, "Little Donkey".

Trips: I went to Toronto in January to give a big lecture and to Victoria (on Vancouver Island) in March for a Classics conference at which I debuted my new paper on Julie Taymor's amazing production of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*. In August we went up to Powell River on the Sunshine Coast of BC to stay a few days with friends Peg and Gary: three ferries to get there, but it was worth it. The water in Okeover Inlet was warm(ish) and the

cleanest and clearest water I have ever swum in. I was in the UK twice this year, in June and November. The emphasis was on family events: a wedding in the summer and a Very Important Birthday Party in the autumn. Yes, we celebrated my mum's 80th birthday a couple of weeks early by throwing a party for her at nearby Grimsdyke, a Victorian house, now a hotel, that was W.S. Gilbert's home. The thirty-three guests, family, friends, neighbours, made it a most wonderful occasion, with a special cake designed like a crossword puzzle. Sadly, my uncles Doug and John passed away during 2012. They were sadly missed from the party. Happily we were able to see a lot of Adam's daughter Edith on our visit, including spending the afternoon crossing the Thames in the new cable car.

Visitors: We always enjoy showing off Bowen to our visitors, who this year included classicists Andrew Wallace-Hadrill and Brett Rogers and my cousin Phil and his wife Denise from Regina. Since Brett was a former musical collaborator, we threw a musical party for his visit, in which he performed memorably. Phil & Denise were also able to make use of Adam's apartment in town and repaid him handsomely by mending the non-stop flow of the toilet and buying him a fan to cool the bedroom down.

Work: The first six months of 2012 were also the last six months of my serving as Head of Department. During that time my major achievement was appointing two brilliant young colleagues, one in Hebrew Bible and the other in Greek literature. But mostly it's a horrible and thankless job and I was ecstatic to finish in the summer. I was really burned out by it.

I did a gruelling lecture tour as the Classical Association of Canada Central Tour lecturer, visiting nine Classics departments through Ontario and Quebec in as many days. Happily the first weekend was spent in Ottawa and I saw a lot of Stephen and Beth, Rowan and Matthew, and was able to make delivery of a suitcase full of dinosaurs, belated birthday presents for Rowan, now aged 4. By the second weekend I had picked up a streaming cold, so my visit with dear friend Karen in Guelph consisted of my sleeping and her bringing me cups of tea. And five days after I got back, I had a violent tummy bug that lasted for five days and was totally debilitating.

But during my leave so far (which continues another year) I have managed to finish some overdue essays on the reception of Latin poetry and sent off my (also well overdue) translation of Seneca's tragedy *Phoenician Women* to University of Chicago Press.

The best bits of the year work-wise were (1) my involvement with friend, fellow-Bowener and law professor Janis Sarra's "Fairness" project, which saw me write a piece on how Latinate language is used as a weapon of obfuscation and unfairness, and (2) the international workshop on "Virgil Translated" that I ran with my SSHRC grant at the Sylvia Hotel in Vancouver. The event, which I involved my grad students in, was intellectually stimulating and exciting, just the model of scholarly collaboration. Why can't academia be like this all the time?

Xmas: this will be our last Christmas in the Fernie Road house, as we'll be moving gradually into the little cabin I bought last year during the next few months. We are not yet sure whether we will try to sell the house right away - the property market on Bowen is very depressed - or find some tenants for the time being. I'm really looking forward to the garden in particular and to not having to haul wood, or dogs, up and down our many stairs at Fernie Road! In any case, from 1st January 2013, our permanent address on Bowen (the phone number, 604-947-2333, remains the same) will be:

1353 Mount Gardner Road, Bowen Island, BC, V0N 1G2

This message comes with warmest greetings to you for a happy and healthy 2013.