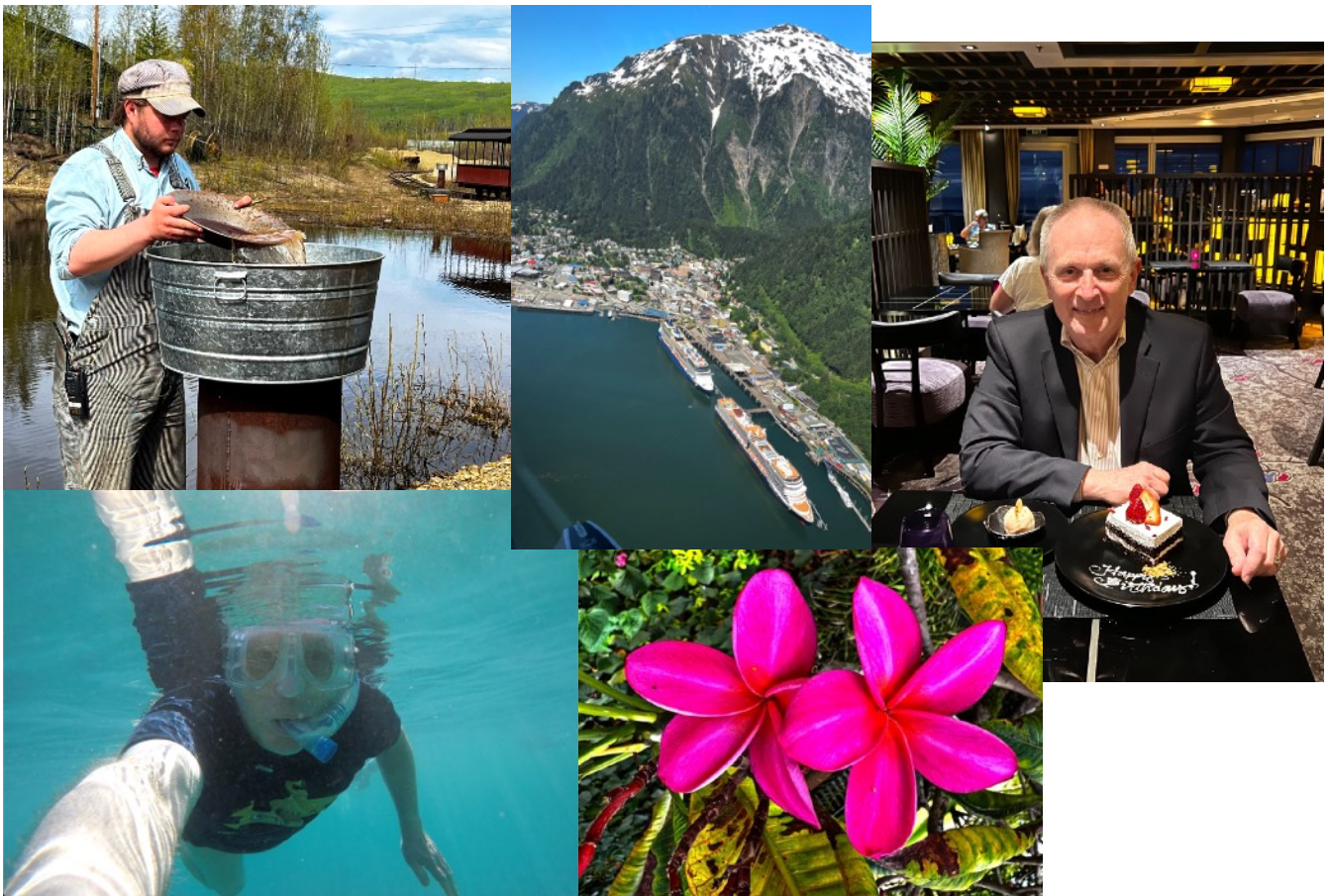

2022 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



After staying home for the last two years, 2022 was my year to travel again: first in May & June to the Yukon and Alaska on a land/sea voyage from Vancouver (return). In October, I *ran away from home* to Hawai'i to celebrate my 70th birthday on my terms, cruising again out of Vancouver with my favourite *Holland America Line*. I enjoyed myself immensely, while being careful to protect against COVID-19 with vaccinations and following health protocols.

2023 will see me cruise again - first on a sailing from Florida, through the Caribbean, canal transit, and up the Pacific Coast to Vancouver. Later in the year, I'm off on a dream cruise to the Mediterranean, Holy Lands & Greece. I'm also already reserved to see the April 2024 Total Solar Eclipse from Mazatlán, Mexico, while aboard a Princess cruise ship. *Peddle to the metal, and ahoy!*

I'm having fun flying my drones; capturing the beauty of southern Vancouver Island, especially our ocean shorelines, cityscapes, sunrises and sunsets. Two new drones have satisfied my itch for new tech this year. Speaking of tech, I also upgraded to a Mac Studio computer and matching monitor to help process all those aerial videos and travel photos. Photography is a lifelong passion of mine, and the new ways to capture photos using drones, mobile phones, action cameras, and the new crop of mainstream lenses and cameras keeps me engaged with the world around me.

My fellow Cowichan High students (grads of 1970) finally celebrated our 50th Reunion this past summer, after delaying for two years. We were all thrilled to see each other, and two of our former teachers also joined us! We may have grey hair and be a bit creaky, but we can still get down and enjoy ourselves...

We had to say farewell to our 18-year old cat Coda in January. He had a good run, but now the house will be ruled by his buddy Mello, our Turkish Van cat. Rolly and Tanner, our Jack Russells continue to keep us doing three walks each day.

Speaking of health issues, I recently had a CT Angiogram which showed a significant blockage in one of my coronary arteries. I'm currently consulting with a couple of doctors to map out a treatment strategy.



Comet C/2021 A1 (Leonard)

I'm still involved in astronomy, although I rarely go outside to observe at night anymore, so I'm making use of remote observatories. A highlight from last December was capturing this beautiful comet from an observatory in Chile.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season, and all the best to you and your family for the coming New Year!

JOE & KIRK, ROLLY & TANNER, AND MELLO

