

19 Feb '00

Dear Frances,

This is a night when I'm not getting off to sleep - always a good idea to write ~~try~~ on on these occasions.

I've had 2 postcards from Marion, quite ecstatic about Quebec & her activities there, & next Friday she comes back. I water her plants once a week & they are all looking OK. My Amaryllis is now about 15" tall & beautiful red blooms are unfolding. I've never had one before.

We are going to have another céilidh next Saturday, & Al McMurphy & I are going to do a duet just for fun. He loves playing his whistle (he has a nice wood one which sounds more mellor than the tin whistle) & ^{he} plays slowly & carefully. We are going to do a piece which is usually a competition piece for the children under 10 - I am just about getting it into my head! I hope it will surprise & amuse the

others.

Yesterday after the Friday morning talk - which this time I'd arranged on "Genetic Engineering" which was very well received - I went out to Sidney & had lunch with Connie & then we went for a walk. She is in a ^{private} estate of modular homes out near the airport. I don't think England would do things like that. They have a recreation room & swimming pool & library, but she says she doesn't know many other people in it. * Her life is very much involved with her own family, with much coming & going between her & Salt Spring Island & the grandchildren. We went for a lovely walk, seeing quite a different part of Sidney from what I used to know. I've never gone back to Allway Road, I'm sure the wee house has been replaced by something monstrous, & that's that.

* This is a good thing, it's impersonal

I managed to put Tea Pilditch off by explaining that I couldn't cope with all the train juggling she was proposing owing to my hip problem. Changing trains, going down under & up to the other platform could be a nightmare. Someone here told me she had gone to Britain armed with a Brit Rail ticket which sounded like such a good idea, & put her back out with all that it entailed. Some stations do have elevators, but not all. I think a nice taxi to Heathrow to Oxford is the best idea!

I heard of Margo Norman recently. She has now had both cataracts done & has her sight restored, & is still taking her whippets out for their walks. They really are beautiful little animals.

Last Saturday in aid of our Jones Bay Community Project (which includes the medical clinic) I went to Green Silent Auction

Fund Raiser which was held
at the Art Gallery. The only
bids I made were for 2 nights
at Tobino (on the West Coast) in
a lavish hotel. But I didn't
get it. Most of the items available
were not in my line - treatments
at beauty parlours etc. It must
be very difficult finding
businesses that will offer their
services. I found some people
Knew, and there was lavish
~~and~~ catering, just piles of
food. I do hope they raised
some money which they badly
need to keep afloat. A new
body has been created called
the Capital Health Region who have
power to reorganize health
services, & they have really
messed up our services in James
Bay. Now I think I must
crawl back to bed & try to go to
sleep. Lots of love &

Jane