



This is a short story to share with the members of CVYC.

It's funny how things play out, often not as planned but if you like to believe in fate, or the Universe etc. I think so far, our story has been all that and more!

When Kirk and I decided to buy in Comox, it went without saying that a boat was in our future. That idea was further perpetuated by our friends (and now partners) Dan and Carol. On the day of our house purchase we stood on a friend's deck overlooking the water and Dan said, "And now Alana, we need a boat". Well, it was a little soon for our respective partners, but Dan and I continued to covertly share images on FB of boats for sale!

Fast forward a year later and Kirk and I had started "the hunt" which took us up and down the Island with varying degrees of satisfaction (and mystery – but that is another story). After seeing way too many "No's" I threw in the towel and said "next year" ... with some dismay. But as life would have it, there was ONE MORE to see (to which I tagged along with much misgiving) and it turned out to be Wits' End.

Earlier that day Kirk had said, "Would it not be lucky if the perfect boat was owned by someone who was not quite ready to sell?" (Because we were not quite ready to buy and Dan and Carol were not quite "there" yet either). In walks Ross. He had kept Wits' End in perfect condition for over 20 years and was sel'ing BUT wanted one more

summer! Yahoo! A match made in heaven. Kirk and Ross nailed down the agreement... THEN, with some trepidation, we invited Dan and Carol for dinner (that was when you COULD come to dinner!!) And asked them if they would still like to partner with us. They went home that night and talked ALL NIGHT about it... we waited patiently. They called the next morning and said YES!!! We were all so excited. Our boating journey had begun.

Over the next few months many arrangements were made, names put on lists, classes taken and clubs in far off lands joined (CVYC) ! We jumped in with all 8 feet and met new people for walks and then on ZOOM. Through that, the Universe offered up Patrick Lewis! He sensed our nervousness about bringing Wits 'End up from Vancouver to her new home in Campbell River and offered his assistance.

Little did we know that this offer of help would be invaluable!

With Covid and the rest of life unfolding – we had tucked the idea of moving and taking full ownership of Wits'End into an 'out of sight out of mind' box. As life would have it, our "spot" at Freshwater Marina came up early and our concern for not having a place to bring her in the spring outweighed our plan to "hold off" the purchase. So, after renegotiating transfer of ownership we drove Wits' End from Burrard YC across to Coal Harbour, (that was a bit unnerving)! From this lovely and well positioned slip (Carderos, Stanley Park, etc.) we spent a month practicing docking and learning as much as possible before we had to move her to the

Island.

The journey from Vancouver to Campbell River in a nutshell was fabulous and challenging in every way!

After making an offering to Neptune in exchange for fair seas (7am scotch is interesting!), we experienced the rolling swells off Bowen and a sunny flat run off Davis Bay and into the quiet of Madeira Park. We had our first overnight and it was so much fun! The next day, bigger waves and winds challenged us and Wit's End. I kept patting her and saying, "Good job Witty!" As she normally was run in sunny, no windy weather! Powell River was a welcome sight with a crazy docking job that no amount of practicing could have made better. We stayed there two nights as the 2nd day was blowing a gale (And the COOKERY was so good we went there twice!) Day 4 and Lund was but a short hop up the coast – where we missed cinnamon buns but got toques for the whole crew at Pollen. The following day, our last day, we went North of Hernando and crossed as a growing South Swell pushed us towards Quadra! We felt the point needed some avoiding so turned into the waves and slowly made our way across. After tacking, beating into the waves for about 30 minutes, we spun around and headed up to Campbell River. Yikes... what a washing machine that was off the point of Quadra!

All this time I'd been in communication with Patrick Lewis, who was still up for the challenge of guiding us in. We picked him up, rather unceremoniously and literally "on the run" from Discovery Marina. From there he guided us into Freshwater. He showed us the range markers, the points to align with both on the water and off and taught us about "crabbing" and I don't mean the ones you eat! To Dan's great credit, he brought Wits' End and her crew safely into dock. We clearly have some learning to do. But it goes without saying that we likely would have been found on the shoals had Pat not been there!

And this takes me full circle back to life... It keeps putting in your way, the people and things you need. If you are willing to say yes and open yourself up to meeting new challenges and engaging with new people – maybe before you even think it's "time", you meet people like Pat for whom we are all so grateful. And it brings people like Dan and Carol into our lives after many years apart, so a journey of a thousand stories can begin.

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