



KEN BIRRELL

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Children: Dan

How to sum up all these years? After leaving South Salem, I moved around for several years, a year in college in southern California, several years at Berkeley, a year in France as a student, a year as a VISTA volunteer in Oklahoma City. I left for Canada during the war in Vietnam, entered into a brief, rocky marriage with very long-term consequences, had a long relationship with a partner whom I lost to cancer in 1999, and am now in a relationship with an Algerian who came here to Canada as refugee; he spends much of his time in Algeria now, so it is often a long-distance relationship; I've been there a couple times to visit.

I have a son, Dan, age 44, living in Victoria; life continues to be a challenge for him.

For the past 30 years, I've been mainly working on contract as a French-English translator for the Canadian government, with some periods of teaching in-between. I was lucky to find my way into translation; it turned out to be my calling. I want to continue working for a couple more years. I look after both a century-old house in Vancouver, BC and to the extent possible at this distance, a century-old mother in Salem. I don't mean to equate the two.

Regrets? I've had a few...

I go to the gym regularly. While not a foodie, I am "into" food. I like gardening. I follow world news avidly; it's important to me to live on that level, trying to understand how we as a species are working out our destiny. I had cancer five years ago but am now disease-free and grateful to be alive.

I now mostly go by my full first name, Mackenzie, rather than Ken.

