

S*M*A*R*T

Canadian Maritimes 2022



June 14 - August 15

S*M*A*R*T

Special Military Active Recreational Travelers

An organization that provides caravans for veterans and their families to travel together to see the country that they had once defended.



A special thanks to our Wagon Masters, Jon and Nancy Katin,
and our Tail Gunners, Michael and Tri Northup.

Edited by Fan Disher and Linda McLeod
with special thanks to photographer, Nina Hutcherson,
and all the caravan contributors.

Cover photo by Nina: Hyclass Campground
Havre Boucher, Nova Scotia

This journal prepared through a collaborative effort of all members of the travel group and contains photos and narrative from all the travelers. The contents are solely for the entertainment and memories of the 2022 SMART travel group and not to be used for any commercial purposes other than SMART. Errors, omissions, and misspellings are purely unintentional and solely our responsibility.

S*M*A*R*T

Canadian Maritimes



2022



New Brunswick



Nova Scotia

Leg 1 – 4: Maine – New Brunswick – to Nova Scotia
June 14 to June 22, 2022



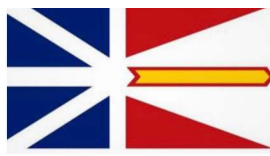
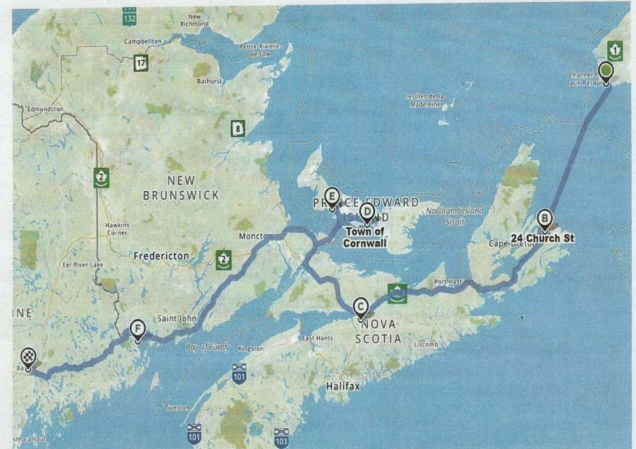
Legs: 4 – 13 - Nova Scotia
June 22 to July 13, 2022



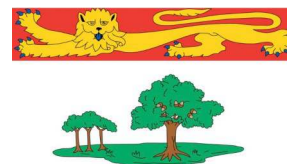
Leg: 15 – 22: Newfoundland
July 14 to July 31, 2022



Leg 23 – 29: Port Aux Basques, NL Ferry Terminal to Nova Scotia, PEI and Maine
August 1 to 16, 2022



Newfoundland and Labrador



Prince Edward Island



**Leg 1 - Pumpkin Patch RV Resort
Hermon, Maine
June 14 and 15**

Contributed by: Terry and Dennis Shaw



George, Kim, Dennis, Bill, and Jan at Fort Knox in Prospect, Maine.

It is finally happening. This Maritimes Caravan was planned over 2 years ago, but because of COVID-19, it was cancelled until 2022. Many members of the caravan including us, arrived at Pumpkin Patch RV Resort early to relax and decompress and visit area attractions. After working on some truck problems with help and hospitality from fellow campers from Maine, we were able to go to Bar Harbor and enjoy a lobster dinner. The Ledets and Masons visited Steven Spielberg's home in Bangor while others went to Fort Knox.

Our 1st official meeting on June 14 began after 22 rigs with adventurous travelers came from across the USA and arrived

at Pumpkin Patch RV Resort in Hermon, Maine. At 2:00, we had our 1st Social Hour and were officially introduced to Jon and Nancy Katin, our Wagon Masters, and Michael and Tri Northup, our Tail Gunners. We were given our incredible **2022 SMART MARITIMES CARAVAN** binder which included our 63-day itinerary of Legs or days we would be at each campground, detailed dates, arrival and departure times, how many miles each leg was, interesting information of what we would be doing, maps of our destination routes, and lots of suggested things to do on our own with our free time. Included were all our names, phone numbers and emails to help us not only get to know each other but to hopefully meet again, possibly on another Caravan! We were given our Maritime hang tags, asked to introduce ourselves and give our branch of service and where we came from. We found out many had gone on other caravans and even were repeating this one. We were given a number that had been hung on our rig and told that when we checked in at each social hour, meeting, or outing we would use this number to help our leaders make sure we were all accounted for. We were also given a special pin commemorating this caravan and a warm jacket with a 2022 Maritime patch which has an American and Canadian flag, mountains, a glacier, and a sailboat. We were reminded to make sure we had our passports handy, our vaccination cards with all 4 shot dates, and to begin to familiarize ourselves with the ArriveCan app before our morning meeting. At the end of the first meeting, Mike and Marshlyn presented us all with a welcome gift of Vermont Maple Syrup.



Marshlyn & Mike present Fan with Vermont Maple Syrup.

The next morning, we met and talked about the latest news regarding our entry into Canada. Our host from the Pumpkin Patch Campground told us that she had been told that no fresh fruits with seeds or eggs were allowed, and of course many of us had these items. We were told that no herbal tinctures or products with marijuana in them were allowed, and if anyone had THC in these products, they would be arrested. We were reminded that no guns, pepper spray, and knives were allowed and that there was a maximum amount of \$10,000 cash allowed for any couple to carry across the border. We completed the ArriveCan app which can only be done 72 hours in advance. Starting the tradition he would continue throughout the trip, Jon presented the Pumpkin Patch owner with one of our special pins as a thank-you.

At 5:00 during our social hour also known as our "Movement Orders/Departure Procedures," we discussed what groups of 5 or 6 we would be in the next morning, who our designated leader was for each group, and that each group would leave and stay together during each travel day. We talked about there being a 45-minute lag between group 1 and 2 and a 30-minute lag between groups 2 and 3 and Groups 3 and 4, made sure that each rig had a working walkie talkie or CB, and that a radio check on channel 5 between groups would be made 15 minutes before departure for each group. The leader and tail gunner of each group were to make sure that no one was left behind. If an emergency or mechanical issue were to come up, the leader was to be notified and everyone in the group would wait until the problem was resolved.

Wednesday, forty-two of us carpooled to our 1st Welcome Caravan Sponsored dinner at **Anglers Restaurant** in Hampden, ME. While waiting on our food, we were introduced to an organization formed in 2021 called "Riders to End the War Within." He talked about wanting to end Veteran Suicide because he stated that 72% of veterans' suicides are occurring outside in the VA parking lot. From personal experience, I know that many veterans who apply for disability and help are typically turned down many times, that the paperwork is tedious and confusing, and there is a long waiting list for services, if available. What a horrible percentage and his organization wants to inform the public and veterans that there are programs outside the VA that are willing to help when they are desperate and feel alone outside of the VA! He was so appreciative to shake fellow veterans' hands and was honored to meet our group. We were given information with their name and website, a patch, and American flag to take with us as a **thank-you**.

We dined on delicious Fish and Chips, Baby Shrimp, Fantailed Shrimp, Calamari, and Chicken Tenders. The staff and servers were incredible, and we enjoyed beginning to get to know our fellow travelers.





**Leg 2 - Rockwood Park Campground
Saint John, New Brunswick
June 16 thru 18**

Contributed by: Terry and Dennis Shaw



**Rockwood Park
Campground**



On Saturday, we travelled 118 miles toward Canada, and about 1½ hours out, Jack and Nell’s slide out decided to come shooting out of its cargo door resulting in a couple of rigs stopping to help. Thankfully we were able to force it back in, secure it, and get back on the road again. Travelling as a group, with many hands, tools, and abilities, folks were able to fix the broken track when we got to the next campground.



We crossed the **Canadian border into New Brunswick**, and, because we had completed the ArriveCan app, we only needed to show our passport. We were asked to pull over, get out, and open our RVs’ safes. Once they were searched, we were asked to step out of our rigs, so they could search them as well as our vehicles. We all stood outside while we later found out they had rummaged through our closets, drawers, pulled back the covers on our beds, went underneath our beds, and opened refrigerators, and cabinets. We had to go back in and secure things and were finally on our way after about 1½ hours. Out of 22 rigs, only 2 were not searched, but 2 of our fellow travelers were fined \$500 Canadian money for a small stun gun with pepper spray she had, and another couple was fined \$450 for having too much money on them. We were pleasantly surprised to know that our eggs and fresh fruits were not thrown out. We found out later that the reason so many rigs were searched was that they were having a training exercise for new border guards; aren’t we lucky!

Once settled in Rockwood Park Campground, we carpooled to a prearranged dinner at The **Royal Canadian Legion Lancaster Branch #69** and were welcomed with smiles and outstretched hands even though we had arrived later than planned due to how long it took us to clear the border. We met Millie, a 97½ year old World War II Veteran and War Bride, who was dressed in her uniform. She was so forthcoming with information and seemed to enjoy our questions and company. We met active Legion members at each of our tables and enjoyed learning about their lives and the activities they enjoy. The couple at our table were happy to know that people are again able to visit their country after COVID. The post commander welcomed us with the playing of both the Canadian and American National Anthems. We were introduced to the Active Legion members, had a delicious meal with local mussels served as an appetizer and made sure that the Auxiliary members in the kitchen were given a round of applause for their service in providing our meal.



WWII Veteran Millie with George.



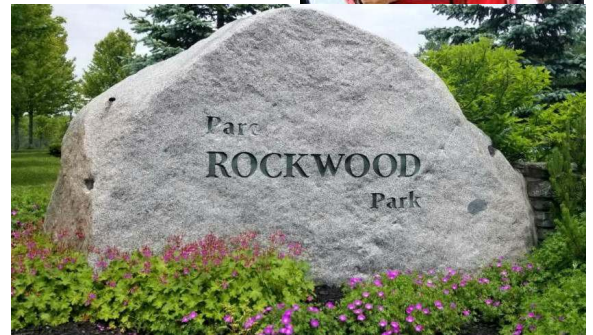
The Missing Man Table

On Friday, the Freedom Tour and Travel Company Bus with Keith Raines as tour guide took us to see Saint John and the Bay of Fundy coast and shoreline despite the rain and thunder. As we travelled out of **Rockwood Park**, he told us the 2200-acre park in the middle of the city was designed by the same man that designed New York's Central Park. Along the way, he pointed out that the McDonald's golden arches in Canada are the only ones in the world with something extra, the maple leaf.

Our 1st stop was the **Reversing Falls** on the Bay of Fundy. We found out that the Reversing Falls are the world's greatest example of a tidal impact upon a river. Twice each day, 100 billion tons of water, a volume equal to all the world's rivers, enters and exits the Bay of Fundy! At this location, water levels rise as much as 9 meters or 29 feet in a tidal cycle. The Reversing Falls Rapids on the Saint John River experience two tidal cycles daily, and the only time vessels can safely pass through the narrow gorge is between the high and low tides or "slack tide" which lasts for about 20 minutes. The Class 5 rapids were moving from right to left when we arrived. Across the bay was a huge Paper Mill run by the JD Irving Company which is a very well-known business in Canada. There was no smell, and we were told by our driver that there are very stringent environmental regulations keeping the air and water clean. The Irving Company is known for its sawmills, oil/gas and natural gas. We left the falls, travelled through the surrounding area of New Brunswick, and returned to the Reversing Falls about 1½ hours later. Believe it or not, the water was now moving from left to right with lots of sea gulls and even a seal diving for fish. What a phenomenon to see; it was truly amazing and a Natural Wonder for sure.



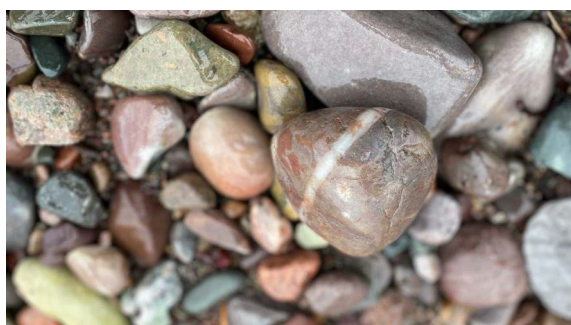
Freedom Bus Tour:
Above: Michael, Hank, Tri.
Right: Tour Guide, Keith



We continued our travels and saw boats on the harbor on cradles because the tide went out and about an hour later began witnessing the rising of the tides because the same boats were already in water. We saw an old, covered bridge, a decommissioned lighthouse, and many cute homes and businesses.



We all had lunch at St. Martins at **The Caves on the Fundy Shore**, and we thoroughly enjoyed getting out of the rain and eating a warm cup of delicious chowder and bread. It was at low tide thankfully, and we saw a lot of small rocks and a huge cave in a small bay. The driver told us to look for rocks with a continuous white line that went completely around it. These are called Wishing Rocks and give us good luck; many of us took some as souvenirs. It started to rain again, and the tide was coming in, so many of us looked at the wonder of this Cave while a few were able to get quite close to the cave. I was very surprised to see how muddy the water was here but was told that because of the rise and fall of these 50-foot tides, a lot of dirt never gets to settle, thus the muddy water.



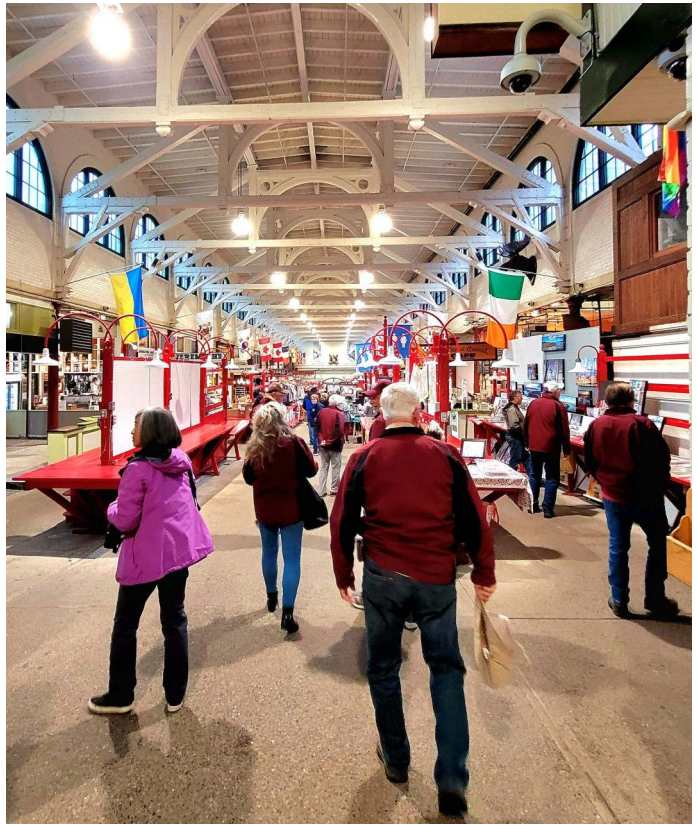
Upper left: Maria, Doug, Glenda, Dennis, Monty, Peggy, Terry, Gina, and Tony at lunch at the Caves Restaurant.

Upper right: George, Fay, Dennis, Brenda, and Hank in front of the caves at low tide

Lower left: The lucky rock

Lower right: View from inside cave

We travelled to a **City Market** that was Saint John's 1st and oldest Farmer's Market. It had sloping aisles down into the market with lots of seafood, vegetables, meat, cheeses, jellies, and canned items from all over. There were specialty items unique to Saint John's and Canada, such as woven items, hats, shirts, jewelry, hand towels, and hats. Our bus driver and guide were amazing, and I think we all enjoyed our full day despite the rain.



Upon our return to the campground, we had our Social Hour, dinner on our own and a free day on Saturday when some played golf, did grocery shopping and laundry, rode bikes or hiked in Rockwood Park, and an artist in our group, Kim, painted tea bags which were beautiful. Saint John was having a Rib Festival that many ventured to explore. Our potluck was a huge success, with a variety of delicious food brought by all. It was time well spent getting to know each other and forming friendships. Jon discussed our Movement orders for the following day, and we enjoyed our final evening at Rockwood Park campground.



Tony, Gina, Peggy, and Monty toured the Rib Festival in Saint John.



The Worker's Monument honors all workers who have been killed or injured on the job. Brennan and Fan enjoyed a ride on their eBikes around the park.



Leg 3 - Ponderosa Pines Campground Hopewell Cape, New Brunswick June 19 thru 21

Contributed by: Fan and Brennan Disher



On Sunday, June 19, we travelled 118 miles to Ponderosa Pines Campground in Hopewell Cape, New Brunswick. Jon purchased Canada Discovery Passes for all of us which are good for a year to enter 80 National Historic Sites and Parks in Canada.

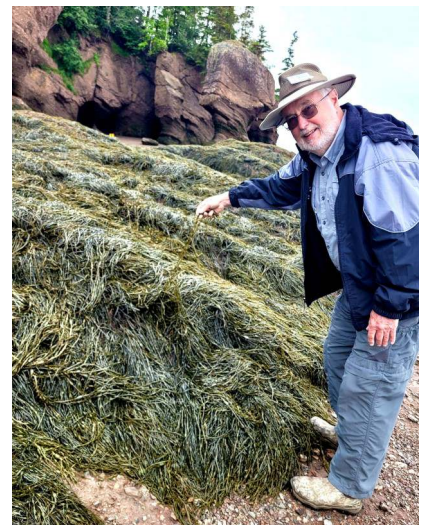
On Monday, June 20, the caravan carpooled to **Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park** for a guided tour of the extreme 48-foot tides on the Bay of Fundy. The tide was out so we could walk the shore as the tour guide gave us interesting information. We descended 99 stairs to the ocean floor where the tour guide pointed out the sea stacks (also known as flowerpots) and told us some of their whimsical names - Elephant, Bear, Dinosaur, ET, and even Mother-in-Law. It drizzled all day, and there was lots of hard walking on the rocks and mud, but it was definitely worth it. The guide pointed out the seaweed that is usually underwater and the rocks that are laid down daily when the tide comes in. He also said you can tell how high the water gets by the greenery on the rocks.



Bill, Tony, Dennis, and George waiting for the tour to start.



Mother-in-Law Flowerpot



Brennan checking out the seaweed that is under water at high tide.



Low tide and high tide: In the morning we could walk in the mud, but when some of the caravan members returned at 4:00 at high tide, the picture was vastly different. Bill and Jan returned to kayak at high tide!!!



Right: Everyone tried to keep dry, but Brenda and Fay had really unique head and foot covers!!!





On Tuesday, June 21, caravan members could explore on their own. We travelled to **Fort Beausejour** which was renamed Fort Cumberland in 1755 when the English seized it. We have found that its interesting star shape is indicative of many forts we would visit on this trip.

The Dishers and MacLeods explored the **Monument-Lefebvre National Historic Site** in Memramcook, New Brunswick, a museum dedicated to New Brunswick Acadian history. (Acadia is spelled Acadie in French.) Brennan and I were especially interested in the list of International Acadian Festivals held every five years because the 1999 festival was held in Lafayette, Louisiana, where our sons live in our home state.



Tuesday night, the **Royal Canadian Legion Post #12** hosted us for dinner. They were so welcoming. They had a picture of a ship, the USS Maine, to donate to a Navy sailor veteran in our caravan which included Jack, Hank, Nina, George, Doug, and Mike. Nina and George were the lucky recipients.

The president is also active in St. Mary's Anglican Church and walked us across the street for a tour after dinner. The ceiling of the church is shaped like a ship's hull.



The beautiful stained glass windows over the pulpit area are Venetian and arrived in the 1800s. A Jewish family donated a menorah because the church took care of their father during the winter when he was unable to return home due to heavy snowfalls.



Leg 4 - Woodhaven RV Park
Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia
June 22 thru 26

Contributed by: Gina and Tony Mason



Wednesday, we travelled 184 miles from New Brunswick into Nova Scotia stopping at the **Nova Scotia Welcome Center** to be entertained by bagpipes.

Upon arrival at **Woodhaven RV Park**, we enjoyed our first lobster dinner boiled by the owners of the campground. The two-pound lobsters were boiled in salt water, not steamed, which made them sweet and tender, and before the lobsters were served, the owner cut them with a “big knife” to make it easier for us novices to clean out the meat. Of course, Jon presented him and his wife with our commemorative pins.



Right: Bruce, Carol, and Brennan enjoy the lobster feast.





Thursday was a beautiful day to take a bus tour of **Halifax City**. The first stop was **Halifax Harbour** on the Atlantic Ocean, the second largest ice-free natural harbor in the world after Sydney, Australia. It was amazing how many containers were there. The Harbour is home to Canada's east coast Navy and 89 cruise ship calls.



The bus then took us to the **Citadel**. We toured the Citadel Thursday on our own and Friday with a guide. Halifax owes its very existence to the Citadel. It is located on the large hill overlooking the easily defended harbor below. In 1749, Citadel Hill was established with Halifax's first settlers building their homes at the base of the hill, closer to the water. Over the years, as the fort grew, so too did the town, with much of Halifax supplying soldiers with essential supplies and off-duty entertainment. The Halifax Citadel National Historic Site is the most visited National Historic Site in Canada.

The present Citadel, completed in 1856, is officially called Fort George after Britain's King George II. Its star shape is typical of many 19th century forts built by the British military giving the garrison sweeping arcs of fire. From its deep defensive ditch, soldiers could point muskets from its stout walls and large cannons lined its ramparts. During our tour, we got to see how to load and fire a musket.

Gina and Nell help with the Sentry Change at the front gate which occurs with procession every hour the Citadel is open.



Be ready for the Noon Gun! The cannon has been fired at noon by the 3rd Brigade Royal Artillery to be heard across the city every day except Christmas Day since 1857.

The two signal masts at the Citadel are easily seen from most of Halifax along with the town clock which reminded the soldiers when to return to the fort. For over 150 years, the signal masts served as a vital means of civilian and military communication before newer forms of communication were invented. Today the replicas of the masts are still “dressed” with flags and pennants in impressive and colorful tradition. The highly visible commercial signal mast standing 140 feet tall was used by the British army to communicate marine traffic in the harbor to the public. A variety of flags hoisted on the mast indicated the number of ships, their nature, nationality, approaching direction, and port of departure. A second yard arm was added in the 1850’s to indicate the movement of steamships giving citizens, particularly local merchants, four to five hours to prepare for their arriving goods. The signal flag service remained so useful to the Halifax economy that the Chamber of Commerce paid for its upkeep from 1868 to the 1930s, with the army continuing to operate the mast as a courtesy until the 1950s.



After the Citadel visit on Thursday, we moved on to the **Public Gardens**. The Halifax Public Gardens on Spring Garden Road are a 17-acre oasis containing fountains, rare flowers, trees, and the beautiful red gazebo. The gardens were formally founded in 1867.

After the Public Gardens and a short stop for box lunches, we travelled to the **Fairview Lawn Cemetery**, the final resting place of over 121 of the 330 *Titanic* victims buried in 1912. Most of the graves are memorialized with small gray granite markers with the name and date of death. Twenty-nine other *Titanic* victims are buried elsewhere in Halifax - nineteen in the Roman Catholic Mount Olivet

Cemetery and ten in the Jewish Baron de Hirsch Cemetery. Some families paid for larger markers with more inscriptions. The occupants of a third of the graves, however, have never been identified and their markers contain just the date of death and number they were given when they were picked up at sea. A grave marked "J. Dawson" gained fame following the release of the 1997 film *Titanic*, since the name of Leonardo DiCaprio's character in the film is Jack Dawson.



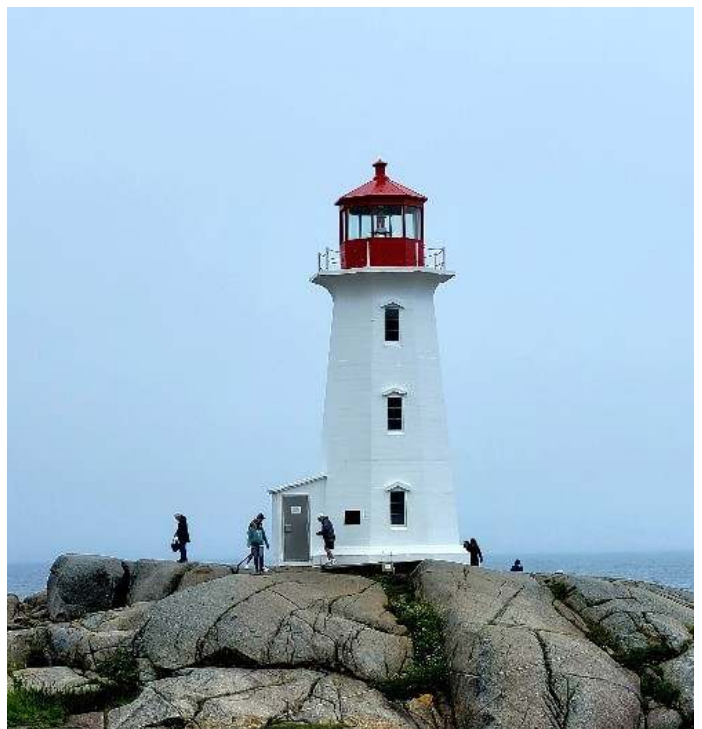
On a drizzly Friday, we carpoled to Peggy's Cove but first stopped at the memorial site for **Swiss Air Flight 111**. The flight took off from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on September 2, 1998. The 50-year-old pilot had over 10,800 hours logged and was both an instructor pilot and fighter pilot in the Swiss Air Force. The 36-year-old copilot was also an instructor and had logged over 4,800 hours. He too was a fighter pilot in the Swiss Air Force. Swiss Air Flight 111 crashed 5 miles off the coast of Peggy's Cove. After taking off from JFK, the aircraft experienced a radio blackout for about 13 minutes, which was found to be caused by communication radio tuning errors. Fifty-two minutes after takeoff, an odor was detected in the cockpit and determined to be smoke from the AC system.

The crew requested to dump fuel to reduce their weight for landing and they were directed south toward St. Margaret's Bay. Fire spread causing the pilots to lose autopilot and the flight crashed 5 miles from St. Margaret's Bay. The aircraft broke up on impact with the water and most of the debris sank 180 feet to the ocean floor. All crew and passengers were lost.

We then moved on to Peggy's Cove. The story of Peggy's Cove starts with 6 fishermen who fished Margaret's Bay for years as it offered a protected place to fish. In 1811, they submitted a petition to settle the area and were granted 800 acres which became Peggy's Cove. The name was born from a romantic tale of a young woman who was rescued from a shipwreck in St. Margaret's Bay, later marrying one of her rescuers. The most recent ice age carved the cove, smoothing out the 380-million-year-old granite you walk on while visiting.

The small wooden lighthouse was constructed in 1868 to allow ships to travel along the rocky shore at night. In 1914, the picturesque 44-foot-tall octagonal lighthouse we saw today was built. The 400-watt light ensures safe passage along the rocky shores. As we stood at the base of the lighthouse, we read a word of warning: "Injury and death have rewarded careless sight seers here. The ocean and rocks are treacherous. Savor the sea from a distance." Most of us relived our youth walking on the granite at the base of the lighthouse even though soaking rains fell. This is the most photographed lighthouse in the area and has represented Nova Scotia on a series of stamps to celebrate Canada's birthday.

Nina took each of our pictures to include in the back of this Memory Book. Too bad it was a rainy day for pictures!!!! We warmed up in the Sou'wester restaurant while enjoying a hot lunch of chowder, fish and chips, club sandwiches, and, of course, a dessert!



Dennis, Shirley, Nancy, Jon, Kathy, Bruce, Carol, Jan, Fay, Brenda



Fan, Monty, Tony, Gina, Peggy, Brennan

On Saturday, a shuttle bus took us back to downtown Halifax where some of us revisited the Citadel and some walked the Halifax Waterfront before a ride on the sailboat. The **Halifax Waterfront** is one of the world's longest continuous boardwalks, coming in at approximately 4 km long.



Halifax has a strong connection to the *Titanic* sinking so there is a permanent *Titanic* Museum at the **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**. When the *Titanic* sank, Halifax was the closest major seaport with rail connections. It was the base for ships searching and recovering bodies of *Titanic* victims. Three ships were dispatched from Halifax, *Mackay-Bennett*, *Minia*, and *Montmagny* (along with *Algerine* from Saint John, Newfoundland) and found almost all the *Titanic* victims. The ships, too, were well-suited for the task with large storage holds to accommodate the dead which were brought to Halifax, while the living and wounded were brought to New York. Over a third of the recovered bodies were buried at sea. Bodies that were damaged or decomposed beyond preservation were buried at sea. In addition, the first Halifax ship to recover bodies, *Mackay-Bennett*, found so many that her crew ran out of embalming supplies and had to bury many victims at sea as regulations only allowed embalmed bodies to be brought ashore. Not surprisingly, given the class attitudes of the period, it was the bodies of third class and crew members who were chosen to be buried at sea.



The Maritime Museum also has a permanent exhibit with artifacts from the 1917 **Halifax Explosion**, the world's largest man-made explosion prior to Hiroshima. About 2,000 people were killed and 9,000 injured when the SS Mont Blanc, a French cargo ship loaded with wartime explosives, collided with an empty Norwegian ship. It caught fire and 25 minutes later exploded. Over 1,600 people were killed instantly in the blast, tsunami, and collapse of buildings and 9,000 were injured. Every building within a 1.6-mile radius, over 12,000 in total, was destroyed or badly damaged. Hundreds of people who had been watching the fire from their homes were blinded when the blast wave shattered the windows in front of them. This exhibit was mind boggling since most of us had not heard this story.

Later that afternoon, we all met back for a 1.5 hour tour on **The Tall Ship Silva** in the Halifax Harbour.

While on the **Tall Ship Silva**, the tour guide told us about the history of the Harbor. A bride-to-be on board for her bachelorette party had a picture moment hoisting the sails. Our Navy sailors, Nina and Doug, would not be outdone and showed her how it was really done. Many of us just sat to watch the action and Kim and Dennis dancing while taking in the Maritime beauty of Halifax.



Right: Jon, Nancy, Kitty, Hank, Brenda, Michael, Tri, Glenda, and Doug waiting for the ship to sail.



Is Nina working harder than Doug?

Kim and Dennis taking advantage of the music while Carl, Shirley, Bruce, and Kathy enjoy the show.



Top left: Jeff, Linda, Fan, Brennan, Bob, Carol, Squeaky, and Terry

Top right: Jon, Nancy, Kitty, Fay, Hank, Michael, and Doug

Right: George, Jan, Nina, Bill, and Dennis



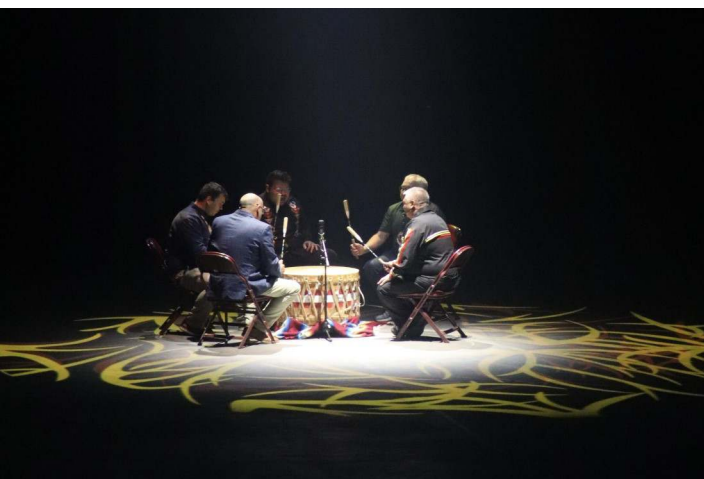


Sunday was the **Tattoo** adventure. The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo is a different show every year featuring more than 2,000 world-class performers from around the world. It began in 1979 as a way to celebrate the first International Gathering of the Clans held outside Scotland, and was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Meant to be a one-time show, the audience loved the bagpipes, drums, military displays, and Highland dancing so much, the Canadian Armed Forces saw the magic of the Tattoo and was inspired to help continue its legacy. Now the show is world renowned.



Our tour bus dropped us off before lunch at the arena for our backstage tour. We learned the word Tattoo is derived from Dutch *doe den tap toe*, translated to turn off the taps. When British soldiers were required back at their barracks, a drummer would march through the streets playing the drumbeat *doe den tap toe*. Over time, the phrase was shortened to *tap toe*, anglicized to *tattoo* and became a word meaning a military musical show.

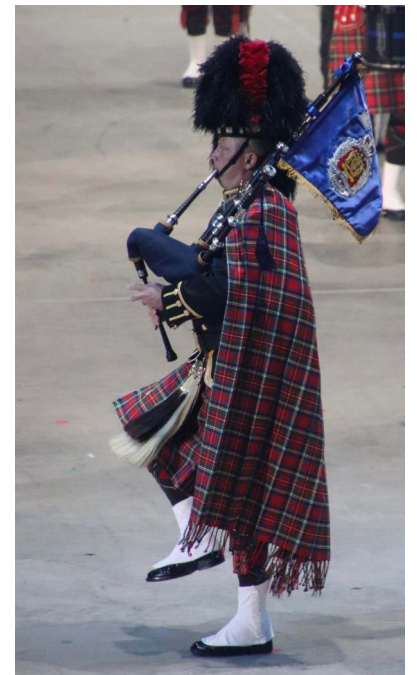
We got to see where the performers dress and stage their entrances onto the floor, an amazing feat with that many performers. A trombonist from Alabama was practicing as we toured the backstage area. He told us each member of the orchestra and choir practice at home. They arrive a week prior to the Tattoo and practice together prior to the opening night. There are only 2 dress rehearsals before opening night. All performers are volunteers who save their vacation to be at the Tattoo. The last person we met backstage was the person in charge of the fireworks. He told us if we saw him running, something was VERY wrong! The floor of the arena is mopped with a solution of Coke and warm water to reduce sliding on the ice as the performers entertain the audience.

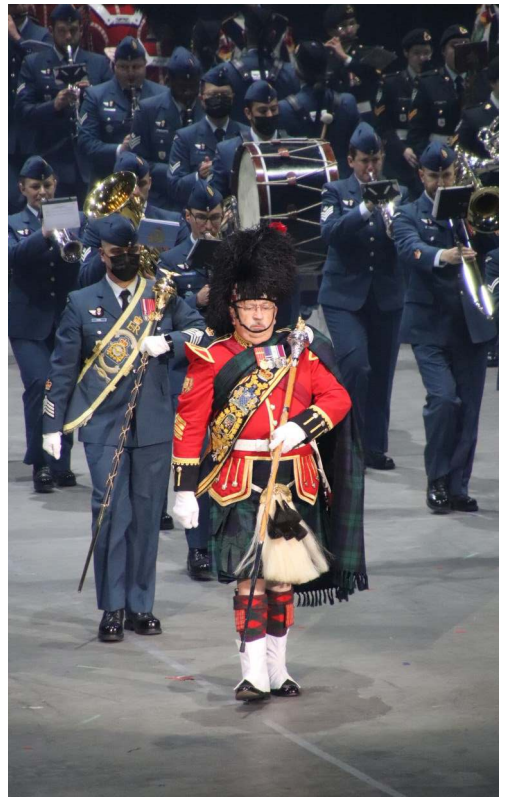


After lunch, we took our seats in section 15. As the lights came up, the Eastern Eagle Mi'kmaq drummers opened the Tattoo. Pipes and drums took to the floor in Military formation. The German Band was followed by the Jordanian Armed Forces Band. The Canadian Army and Air Force had an obstacle course race with Army winning. Anastasia, an aerial acrobat hung from red silks performing her gymnastic routine. The German Acrobatic Bicyclists were a crowd favorite, as were the flying Grandpas whose skills on the trampolines had us all laughing out loud. The 2.5 hour fast paced show amazed us all.

The No. 2 Construction Battalion was honored at the Tattoo for their service in WWI. They were a black labor battalion that was eventually recruited to serve Canada in World War I. Initially these men could not enlist due to their skin color. However, when the causality rate got too high, they were accepted into service. Black soldiers who proudly serve our country today can do so because more than 100 years ago a group of Black men took a stand.

The **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo** blended military pomp, pipes, drums, and highland dancing. It takes over 150 volunteers, 50 seasonal staff, and 1500 performers to put on the Tattoo. It is a show I will never forget.







Leg 5 - The Plantation Campground Berwick, Nova Scotia

June 27

Contributed by: Fan and Brennan Disher



We traveled only 71 miles today and stopped along the way to tour the **Grand-Pre National Historic Site** one of the epicenters of Acadian culture and now a memorial to their Le Grand Derangement, their deportation from Canada by the British in 1755. Grand-Pre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization). Grand-Pre means a large meadow. The Acadians diked hundreds of acres of land to farm it and keep the salty tidal waters at bay.

The St. Charles des Mines Church was built in 1922 to honor the Acadians who settled the area. The Historic Site will be celebrating its centennial this year. There is a model of the church in the welcome center which was created by John Allen LeBlanc in 2000. He said, "Realizing that there are Acadian descendants who will never have the experience of going to Grand-Pre, it is my hope that all Acadian descendants will have this opportunity to view the church and leave with an understanding of the importance in realizing what this Church represents."



In 2020, Mr. LeBlanc donated the model to the Grand-Pre Welcome Center and a sister model to Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site in St. Martinville, Louisiana, managed by Fan and Brennan's daughter-in-law, Christi Disher. Mr. LeBlanc placed items in the models' interior from important Acadian sites in Louisiana and Nova Scotia such as wood from the homesteads of many generations of his ancestors, a rock from the Old Acadian Cemetery at Grand-Pre and a teaspoon of soil from his home in Lafayette, Louisiana, and from his 1707 ancestral homestead in Port Royal, Nova Scotia. Many of the parts of the outside of the model also use wood from significant Acadian areas in Louisiana and Nova Scotia. (Brennan fussed at the guides in the Welcome Center for not having a commemorative plaque on their model like Christi has in St. Martinville.)



The Grand-Pre Welcome Center model and the sister model at Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site in St. Martinville, La.



Leg 6 - Little Lake Family Campground Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

June 28 thru 30

Contributed by: Shirley and Carl Mikuletzky

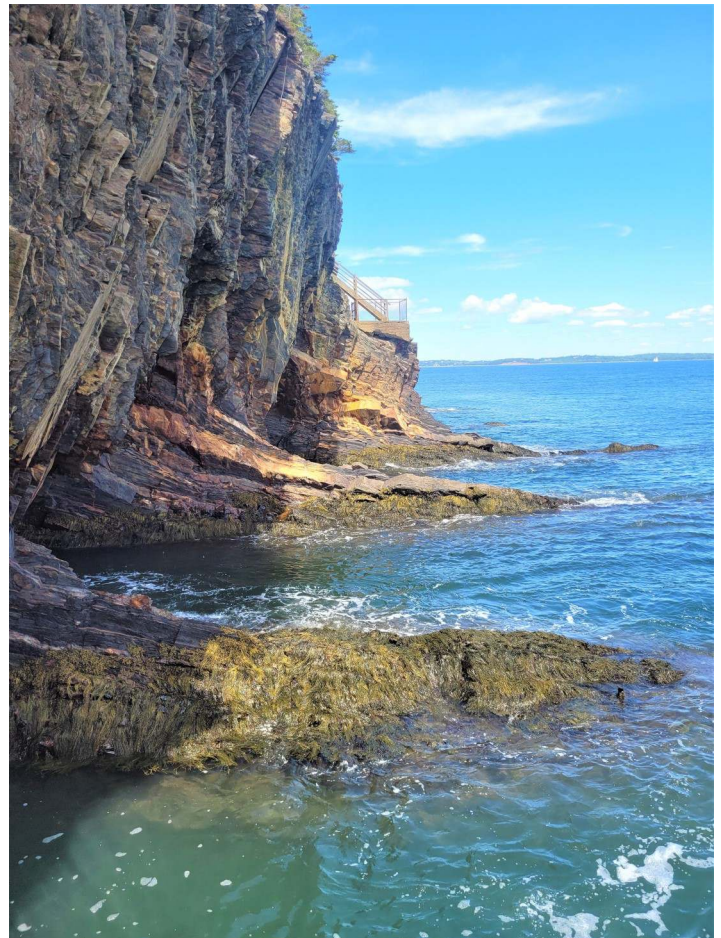
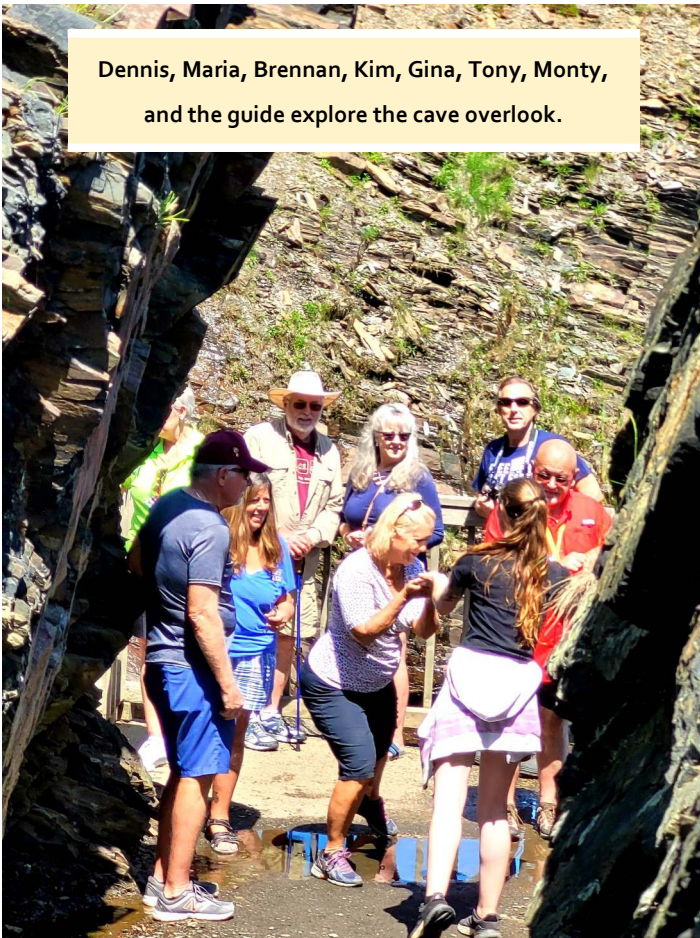


We started out on Tuesday on a rainy travel day 66 miles to Lunenburg, but by the time we arrived at Little Lake Family Campground, the skies had cleared, and we settled in. The Dishers and Masons took off to have dinner and see **Oak Island** where the History Channel films *Curse of Oak Island*. All the security guard would let them do was roll around the parking lot. Gina could at least say she was there and stole a rock from the bridge.

On Wednesday, we had a beautiful, warm day to visit **Ovens Park** which really consists of three areas: Cunard Beach, Sea Cave Trail, and the Ol' Miner Diner. In 1861, gold was discovered on the sandy beach and hundreds of miners started arriving. The government decided to sell 83 parcels (30 ft by 33 ft) of land. The Cunard family, famous shipping magnates, bought 77 and dug out the sand and shipped it to England to be "panned" there. Like many gold rushes, it petered out by 1862. The Sea Cave Trail meanders along the coastal cliffs with scenic views and several opportunities to climb steps down into the caves carved out by the waves. One legend says a Mi'kmaq Indian brave went into Indian Cave and came out 90 miles to the northwest. Cannon Cave "booms" as the waves rush in and out.

The Ol' Miner Diner provided a delicious lunch, and some of the group even went back for dinner and a musical tribute by the N'Everly Brothers.

Dennis, Maria, Brennan, Kim, Gina, Tony, Monty,
and the guide explore the cave overlook.



On Thursday, we had another beautiful day to visit Lunenburg, a UNESCO world heritage seaport. We started out with a guided tour of the **Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic**. A map showing how the currents from the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Atlantic Ocean create rich waters for fishing on the Grand Banks brought to mind *The Perfect Storm*. We learned how fishermen started in small boats but then sent out numerous dories from ships that could hold larger catches. The fishermen endured long hours and dangerous conditions to make a living.



Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg.



A 25 pound lobster on display in the Fisheries Museum



Fishermen fished for cod with lines off the side of the boat. Below: Brennan demonstrating the method.



Don't worry - we didn't leave Kitty in jail long!!!





Dennis and Terry touring the Bluenose II.

After the museum tour, everyone toured the small town of Lunenburg for a fun day. We also had the opportunity to go aboard the Bluenose II while it was docked in Lunenburg. The Bluenose I and II were built in Lunenburg. The famed schooner Bluenose became a national icon when she raced undefeated 17 times in the International Fisherman's Race.

The Bluenose was both a racing and a fishing vessel in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1946, while hauling freight near Haiti, it hit a reef and sank. It achieved immortality when its image was engraved on the Canadian dime in 1937. The replica Bluenose II was built in 1963 and sold to the province of Nova Scotia for \$1 in 1971. She is a sailing ambassador for Nova Scotia.



Peggy, Monty, Gina, and Tony touring Lunenburg the fun way!



Later that evening, Brennan and Fan boiled lobsters in Zatarain's Crab Boil to treat the Shaws, Ledets, and Masons to large "crawfish" Louisiana style.



The buildings in downtown Lunenburg were brightly painted in a wild array of colors.



Leg 7 - The Cove Oceanfront Campground Parker's Cove, Nova Scotia

July 1 thru 3

Contributed by: Squeaky and Terry Mayes



The caravan travelled 85 miles back across Nova Scotia to Cove Oceanfront on the Bay of Fundy where the owner personally parked each of us and was very particular about how we lined up in our site. After that tedious parking adventure, we could relax.

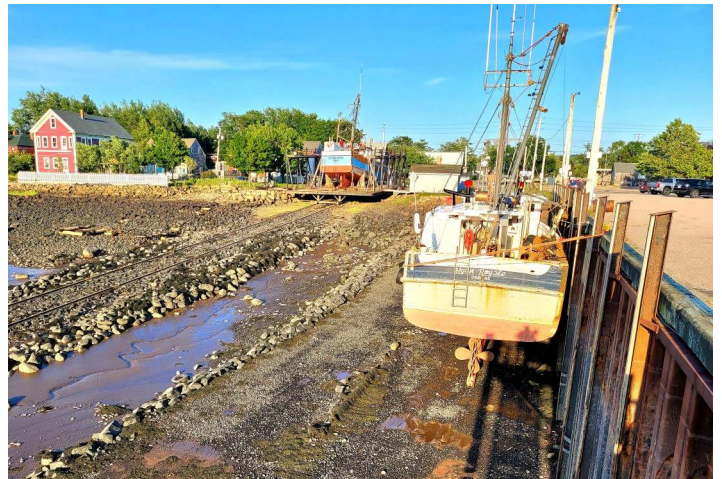
Bill, Jan, George, Nina, and Dennis had a great view of the bay and sunset.



Linda and Jeff entertained us on the guitar and autoharp with some bluegrass and country songs.



The Shaws and the Dishers travelled into Annapolis Royal to eat that night, but it was Canada Day, celebrating when the British North American Act created Canada in 1867, and very few restaurants were open. They did explore the Annapolis Royal Wharf. The difference in high tides and low tides never ceases to amaze us with what looks like stranded boats.





Jack, Jon, Maria, Kim, Dennis, Glenda, and Doug listening to the guide for our Walking Tour, Alan Melanson, who welcomed us with a Mi'kmaq song while beating a deer hide drum.



On Saturday, we returned to Annapolis Royal for the **Acadian Mi'kmaq Walking Tour**. The tour was only about a four-block circle because Annapolis Royal is not that big. We met at the Annapolis Royal Lighthouse which was built in 1889 and is 28 feet tall with an elevation of 30 feet. The Annapolis Royal Historic Society purchased the lighthouse for a \$1.00 to preserve it. The tour guide, Alan, has a long family history in the area, so all his stories were very personal.

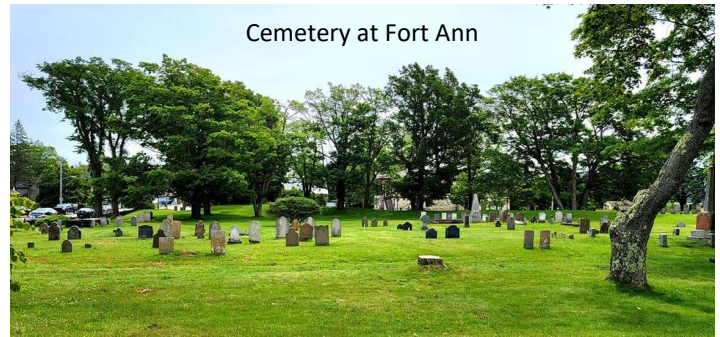
Every year many stacked rocks are left on the boulders at water's edge to let others know someone was on that spot. When the winter storms come rolling in, the rocks will be cast to the ground awaiting the next season's passersby to leave their mark along the boardwalk.

Alan told us that Annapolis Royal is the smallest incorporated town in Nova Scotia (pop) 530, and one of Canada's largest National Historic Districts with about 135 registered heritage properties such as the Sinclair Inn, the earliest surviving Acadian building in Canada. The port of Annapolis Royal saw 13 battles and changed hands 7 times, and there is a replica of a whaling boat in the harbor. He pointed out a memorial where the Mi'kmaq of L'sitkuk and the citizens of Annapolis Royal commemorate their shared history and renew the historic bond of their friendship first established in 1605. The town also had a Memorial to the Merchant Marines in WWI and WWII, to the men in town who served in WWII and Korea and finally to those who have lost their lives in the Great War.



It started raining just as we finished the tour, and Jon quickly presented Allen with our special pin. Later we all enjoyed a lunch of chicken noodle soup, sandwiches, and dessert of rhubarb and custard crumb with ice cream at the German Bakery and Sachsen Cafe and Restaurant.

Sunday was a free day. Some of the group travelled to the Granville Ferry to visit the **Port Royal Habitation** site, a recreation of Samuel de Champlain's 1605 settlement where costumed interpreters explained the various rooms and functions in the settlement.



Cemetery at Fort Ann

Some visited **Fort Ann** in Annapolis Royal. There was an 18 foot long needlepoint tapestry, made by local volunteers, to tell the story of the events that shaped Fort Ann's history.



Fan, Brennan, Maria, and of course Kloe, the dog, rode their bikes on the **Rails-to-Trails** route.



Some visited **Digby**, the home of a large scallop and lobster fishing fleet. Digby is called Canada's Natural Aquarium.



Nina, George, Jan, and Bill visited the **Bear River Vineyards** to sample the local wines.



Peggy sighted a porcupine along a walking path in the campground. That created quite a stir among the picture takers.



Doug and Tony brought their wives to the **Glynnevan Distillery** to sample the local whiskey. The owner hires veterans and tried to talk Tony and Doug into a job.



**Leg 8 - Scotia Pine Campground
Brookfield, Nova Scotia
July 4**

Contributed by: Fan and Brennan Disher



The caravan travelled 184 miles today. Scotia Pine is beautiful with shady spots that we could pull through, not unhook, and lots of land for all the dogs to run. Great for a one-night stand.

Happy 4th of July! Of course, we celebrated with a cookout. We decorated with whatever flags we could find in our RVs. The guys grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, and Nancy and Jon supplied potato salad, coleslaw, and baked beans. Everyone pitched in with the makings for a great meal finished off with an apple strudel Gina picked up at the German bakery we visited on our trip to Annapolis Royal. We even celebrated July birthdays!



Above left to right:

Cooks Bruce and Tony getting "advice" from Dennis and Brennan.

Kim and Dennis dress for the occasion!

Linda and Jeff started the party with a singalong of patriotic songs.

Left: Glenda, Fay, Kathy, Nina, and Kim dig in!



**Leg 9 - Hyclass Ocean Campground
Havre Boucher, Nova Scotia
July 5 and 6**

Contributed by: Kim and Dennis Jennings



Leg 9 of our SMART Canadian Maritimes Tour took us a short 106-mile drive from Brookfield to Hyclass Ocean Campground in Havre Boucher, Nova Scotia. Havre Boucher is one of Nova Scotia's 22 incorporated villages. It takes its name from the natural harbor that opens onto St. George's Bay to the north. It is largely rural and largely dependent on the fishing industry.

It was a beautiful travel day followed by independent sightseeing. Some of the folks followed the **Ceilidh trail** to the corner of the world blessed with ancient Scottish heritage, cradled in the picturesque hills of Glenville, Cape Breton.

A few of us explored the **Glenora Distillery** on Cape Breton Island, where North America's first single malt whiskey was produced. We took a guided tour through the distillery and sampled various years of the whiskey. The distillery started production in June, 1990, and has become well known for its Glen Breton Rare Canadian single malt whiskey. It is produced by the traditional copper pot stills method using only three ingredients: barley, yeast, and water. Whiskey cannot be called scotch unless it is produced in Scotland, thus, Canadian Malt Whiskey.



While on the grounds, we enjoyed the freshest Nova Scotia seafood while listening to sounds of the babbling brook and enjoying the beautiful border gardens and sounds of Celtic music on the fiddle, piano, guitar, flute, and harmonica. Bill and Jan even took a few spins around the dance floor.



George, Nina, Jan, Bill, Kim, and Dennis having fun at **Glenora Distillery**.



The Arisaig Lighthouse is Brennan's favorite because they sold ice cream!

Another site was the **Arisaig Lighthouse and Provincial Park**. The lighthouse currently on the grounds is a replica of the original Arisaig Lighthouse which burned in the early 1930s. Interpretive panels located on rocks around the lighthouse tell the story of the historic fishing community of Arisaig. To this day, 400-million-year-old fossils can still be found amongst the shoreline's rocks.

Another area to see on Leg 9 was the **Ballantynes Cove Interpretive Center**. This area commanded an outstanding view of Saint George's Bay. Even more options were available to all such as the Harbor Quilt company, The Made Store with all locally handmade gifts, Antigonish Golf Course, and even a Walmart Supercenter where many took the opportunity to replenish supplies.



Gina & Dennis at the Tuna Centre.



Some of us toured the Bluefin Tuna Interpretive Centre where we got to hold the 25 pound rod and reel used to catch these massive fish.

They told us at the **Bluefish Tuna Interpretive Centre** that these fish can swim over 50 mph and drag a boat around for hours before tiring. Most of the tuna are sent to Japan. The largest Bluefin ever caught with a traditional rod and reel was landed in 1979 in Port Hawksbury by Ken Frasure weighing in at 1496 pounds!



The day ended with a wonderful bonfire attended by many amidst the radiant setting sun on Lynnwood Harbor. The picture of our bonfire adorns the cover of this Memory Book. Such a perfect way to bring closure to our trip to Havre Boucher, Nova Scotia!

Left: The Maritime women looking good!!!
Brenda, Shirley, Tri, Fay, Marshlyn, Jan, Kim, Nancy, Fan, Terry, Nina, Carol, Squeaky, Gina, and Kathy. (Sorry we are missing Glenda, Linda, Peggy, Nell, Kitty, and Maria!)



Leg 10 - Baddeck Cabot Trail Campground Baddeck, Nova Scotia

July 7 thru 11

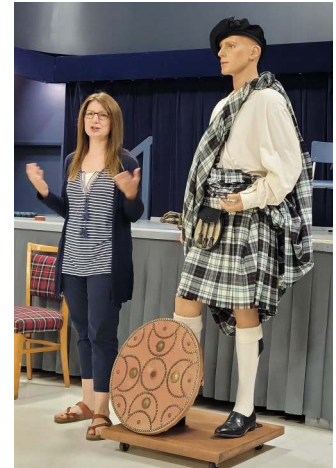
Contributed by: Peggy and Monty Ledet & Jan Deblois and Bill Lemna



Thursday we traveled 59 miles to Baddeck Cabot Trail Campground, a beautiful day for travel. On Friday, we started with a trip to the **Gaelic College of Art & Crafts**. We were serenaded on arrival by a very talented 16-year-old bagpiper, Cameron, who was in full kilt attire. In the Great Hall of Clans, our tour guides taught us about the history of the kilt and the music and dance and how to speak Gaelic. How wonderful to see past culture being taught to all who want to learn!

While we ate lunch, we were entertained with a **Ceilidh** (pronounced Kaylee), a traditional Scottish social gathering playing Gaelic music.

Later that evening, we partook in another **Ceilidh** at St. Michael's Hall with one of our fellow travelers, Jeff MacLeod, performing with the musicians on the fiddle. We enjoyed complimentary tea and oatcakes.





In Baddeck, we also visited the **Alexander Graham Bell Historic Site**. He was born in Scotland and lived on Cape Breton Island. He was an amazing man. Look where we are today from his little wooden phone boxes to the technology of today. He was also very instrumental in helping the deaf to communicate; imagine something as simple as writing letters on the hand. He was even involved in building the first airplanes to fly in Canada.



On Sunday, Jan and Bill travelled to the top of the **Cabot Trail** to buy lobster off the boat, and eight of the caravan members travelled back to Antigonish to enjoy the Highland Games. Gina said they learned that Mason is a Scotch-Irish parish name with a two headed lion crest! On our caravan we have several clan members: the McClendons are Irish, the Shaws and the MacLeods are Scottish!



On Monday, Doug and Glenda bought snow crabs off the boat on the west coast of the Cabot Trail. We all learned how to prepare them for boiling: Bren and Doug hit them on the table to break off the



shell, Terry, Glenda, and Fan broke them in half and cleaned out the guts and lungs, and Brennan, Carl, Dennis, and Doug boiled them up. Dennis was the champion cleaner!



Leg 11 - Arm of Gold Campground
Little Bras D'Or, Nova Scotia

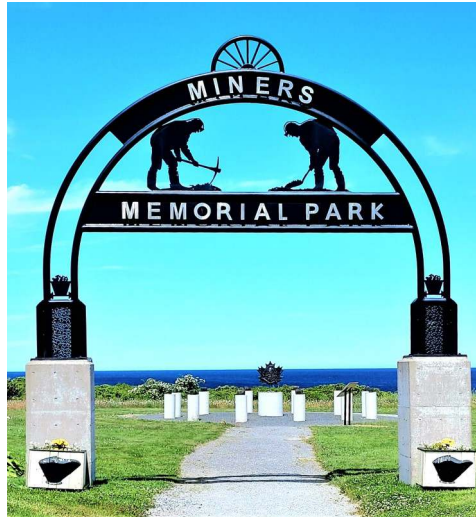
July 12

Contributed by: Glenda and Doug McClendon



We travelled 37 miles to Arm of Gold Campground in Little Bras D'Or, NS, to be closer to the ferry crossing. We rode to Glace Bay with Hank and Brenda, walked around the downtown area where Hank got a haircut, and visited Old Town Hall and **Glace Bay Heritage Museum**. It opened in 1903 and has displays of coal mining and fishing and a memorial to deceased coal miners. An interesting exhibit was about the first transatlantic wireless service between Glace Bay and Ireland in 1907 invented by Guglielmo Marconi.

We then met others from the caravan at the **Miners' Museum Restaurant** in Glace Bay to enjoy a caravan sponsored lunch and walk through the interesting outside displays. The **Miners' Memorial Park** honors twelve miners who lost their lives in an explosion in the #26 Colliery. (A colliery is the underground coal mine and all the buildings associated with it.) The twelve brass lunch boxes with the miner's names fashioned around the marker was very touching.



I found The Cage, a large metal box with only two enclosed sides that held thirty men as it descended into the mine, very interesting. There were replicas of the company store and the company house; the workers were provided houses and essential items by the company but were charged for everything and had little opportunity to improve their financial situation.



That evening, we returned to the museum to enjoy a show by the **"Men of the Deep"** choir which was started in 1966 by a group of thirty retired coal miners. The longest serving member has been with the group for 46 years. The men entered the theater in total darkness with only the lamps on their helmets for light.



Leg 12-14 - Ferry Adventure
North Sydney, Nova Scotia
July 13 and 14

Contributed by: Glenda and Doug McClendon



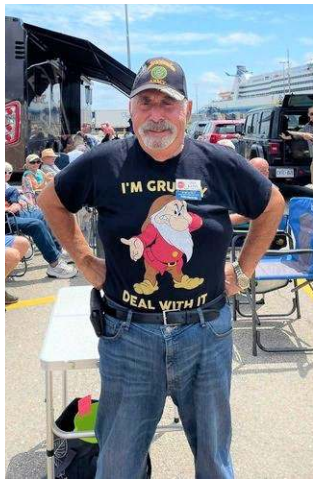
We lined up at 11:00 am to go through the terminal gates for our ferry to Newfoundland. Once through the gates and lined up in our appropriate spots, we had to wait for a 5:00 pm boarding so we had a tailgate party.

Everyone brought food and chairs. There was quite a variety of dishes and some regional foods to be shared like Peggy and Monty's Louisiana boudin, Fan's New Orleans Muffulettas, King Ranch casserole from Texas, shrimp dip from Oregon, German summer sausage, jalapeno dip, bacon wrapped sausage, and lots of desserts. Everything was so delicious. Afterwards, most of us sat in our RVs, but Doug and I went to Tim Hortons (our first visit) for donuts and birthday cake balls for Fay.

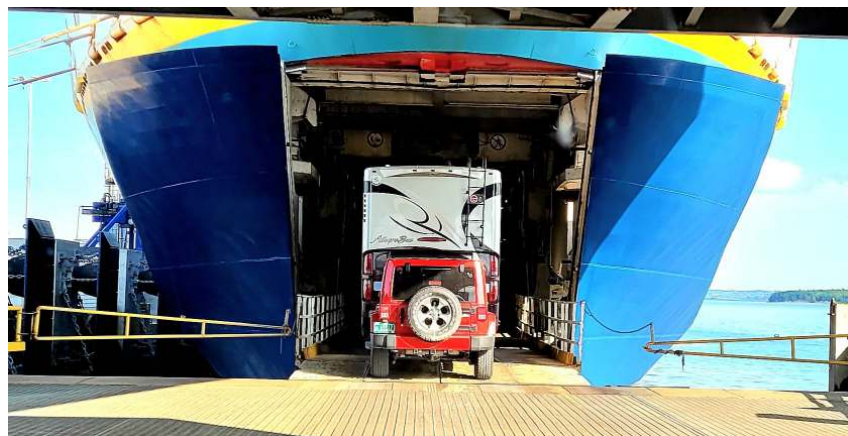


Bruce and Kathy weren't too happy with their parking space while we waited for the ferry because of the birds nesting on the light post above their rv.

When Mr. Grumpy (aka Jon) gave us the signal, we finally started to load the ferry about 5:30 pm only to be delayed by a malfunction in a ramp.



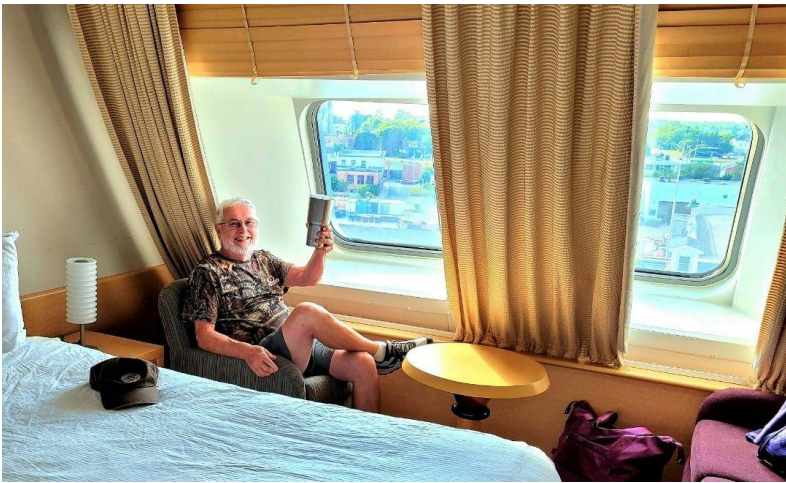
The ferry can hold 425 cars and ninety 18-wheelers/RVs on three decks.



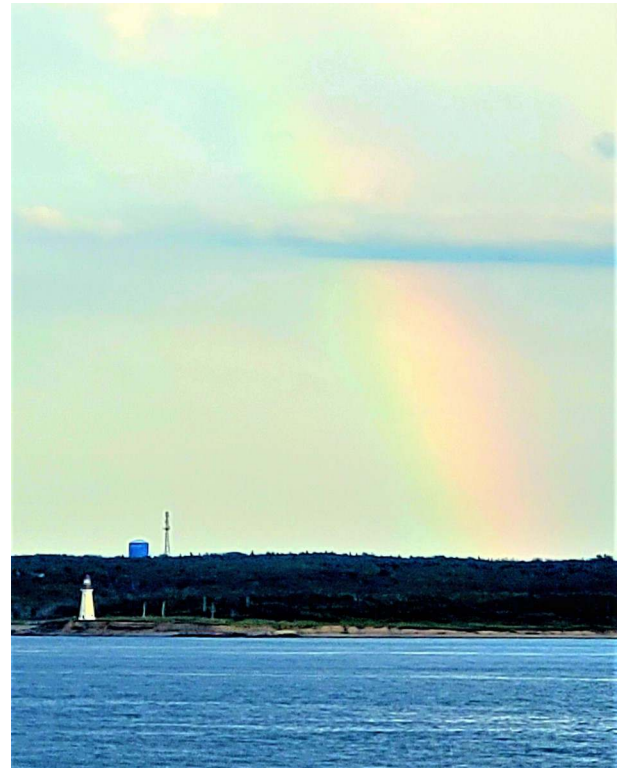
Maria, Doug, and I were the last to load the ferry.



Everyone enjoyed the evening in the lounge, snack bar, buffet line, and game room. The band played *Happy Birthday* for Fay and sang *The Yellow Rose of Texas*.



There were two or four bunk cabins, deluxe cabins, and pet friendly cabins. Brennan was happy to finally relax in his cabin after a long, hot day. The sea was a bit bumpy with some vibrations (shakes) during the night, and the foghorn blew every two minutes.



Fan, Bren, Tony, Gina, Dennis, and Terry had travelled to the **Low Point Lighthouse** in New Victoria yesterday where they saw the ferry that they would be riding today. They were excited to see the lighthouse from the sea with the added benefit of a rainbow.



The ferry pulled into **Argentia** about 10:00 am. We were some of the first group of vehicles to disembark and were unloaded quickly. After such a long trip, we were excited to finally see the welcome sign to our third Maritime province.



Leg 15 - Pippy Park Campground
St. John's, Newfoundland
July 14 thru 17

Contributed by: Hank and Brenda Landry



On Thursday, after leaving the ferry that brought us from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland, we drove 82 miles east to **St. John's** (not to be confused with Saint John, Nova Scotia). The capital of and largest city in Newfoundland, "St. John's" commemorates the feast day of St. John the Baptist, the day that John Cabot sailed into the harbor in 1497. Cabot was the first European on North America since around 1000 when Norse Vikings sailed to Northern Newfoundland. A year-round settlement began around 1630, seasonal visits before that, as Europeans came to the Grand Banks for fishing.



On our tour, we saw some of St. John's unique brightly painted row houses. Locals call these "jellybean houses." They are supposed to help folks who have had a really good night on the town find their own house.

We camped at one of Canada's largest urban parks, Pippy Park, a 3,400-acre land reserve within minutes of downtown St. John's. In Nova Scotia we were on Atlantic time, an hour ahead of East Coast time; Newfoundland is half an hour ahead of that. A Newfoundland family at the campground said it was because Newfoundlanders like to be quirky.

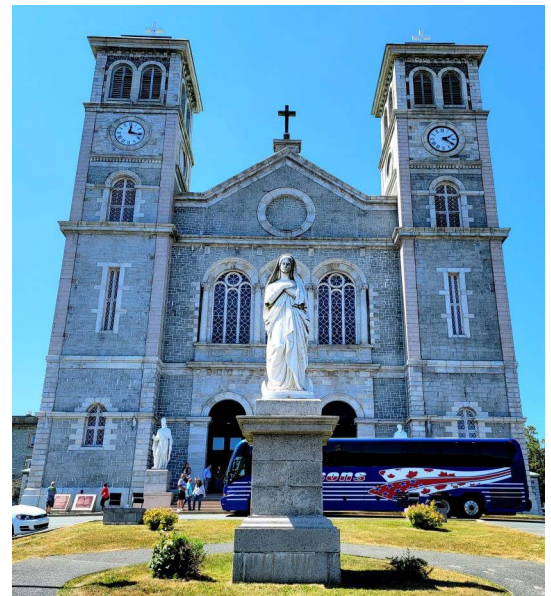


Early Saturday morning we headed out for a guided bus tour of St. John's. St. John's is a prosperous fishing village and was the site of many battles between France and Britain for control of the region.

We stopped at the pretty little inlet known as **Quidi Vidi**. We then went up to Signal Hill, where the final North American battle of the Seven Years' War was fought in 1762.

The last stop on the tour was the **Basilica of St. John the Baptist** and the Presentation Museum with the **Veiled Virgin** statue. The architecture and interior of the Basilica were truly beautiful.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus and sinus infections were making their way through the caravan, so many people missed some of these events.





On Sunday we drove out to **Bay Bulls** for a puffin and whale watch cruise. Our course first took us past the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve on geologically fascinating Gull Island, which serves as a seasonal home to 2.5 million birds. We got great views of the nesting sites of several species such as Common Murres, Black Legged Kittiwakes, Black Guillemots, Atlantic Puffins, and Razor Billed Auks. As interesting as the bird watching was, the best part of the cruise was the humpback whales as they came close to the boat. Before heading back to the campground, we stopped for lunch at “The Jigger” in the quaint little village of Bay Bulls.



We closed out our visit to St. John with a grilled steak and potluck dinner at the campground. We were provided with great entertainment by Jeff and Linda and Jan who brought us down memory lane with the hits of the 60's.





Leg 16 - Paradise Farm Trailer Park Bonavista, Newfoundland

July 18 and 19

Contributed by: Kitty Francen



We travelled 188 miles today to Paradise Farm Trailer Park. It was a windy day that made me seasick, but the road was fantastic, that is until Highway 230. Apparently 230 is maintained (?) by Newfoundland, and the highway department took a page out of the US department of highways - don't fix potholes, just put a sign up.

As we were driving, it occurred to me that Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes, but I think Newfoundland is the land of 10,000 ponds. We barely made it to the campground before the sky opened and lightning and thunder took out the electricity at the campground. A storm overnight kept the rig lit up and shaking.

Now that we're halfway through the trip, here are some observations about
Newfoundland and the other Maritime provinces:

- The maritime provinces are comprised of rock, pine trees and water. The primary industries seem to be seafood, lumber, and tourism.
- Trash is virtually non-existent except in proper containers, hardly any seen along the roadsides and park trails.
- Homeowner trash & recycle containers are kept at the roadside inside interesting wooden receptacles, many of which are decorated.
- Canadians take recycling seriously - no plastic bags at stores and no plastic takeout containers. Every campground and roadside rest area has recycling containers available.
- Semis do not clog roadways, but potholes certainly do. There are no truck stops.
- There are no shoulders on roadways so parking on the side of the road is normal.
- Bicycles on the highways is a common sight including going up HUGE inclines. Campgrounds are EVERYWHERE!
- Traffic sign warnings are all in picture words which eliminates the requirement to have both English & French descriptions.
- Wildflowers, flowering bushes, weeds - everything is in bloom! Amazing how they survive the harsh winters.
- Beaches are covered in a variety of stones/rocks but no sand to be seen. Of the 3000+ miles we'll travel, it seems like 99% of it was within view of water.
- Mail is not home delivered; it is delivered to neighborhood boxes.

No matter how the day went,
Jeff, Linda, Fay, Dennis, and
George always enjoy watching
the water and the sunsets.





Some in the caravaners toured **Dungeon Provincial Park** where they viewed a beautiful collapsed sea cave with a natural archway. The archway was created over thousands of years ago by pounding waves of the Atlantic. It was a beautiful day to walk the boardwalks and viewing platforms surrounding the sea caves.

Left: These caravaners enjoyed hiking and sight-seeing in Dungeon Provincial Park.
 1st row: Glenda, Fay, Nancy, Nina, Shirley, Kim, Brenda
 2nd row: Doug, Jon, Hank, Dennis, Carl, and George



It was an excellent opportunity to view Puffins and other birds on land on Bird Island in Elliston on the Bonavista Peninsula. There is a five minute walk from the road to the cliff that faces the island where the Puffins nest. Be still and a puffin will fly close.



Leg 16a - Jonathan's Pond Campground Gander, Newfoundland

July 20

Contributed by: Kitty Francen



We travelled 183 miles to **Gander**. The trip started with major fog but soon the wind whipped it away as it also attempted to whisk me away. It was a hard-fought battle to stay on the highway, but highway signs were intriguing: By d'Bay, Dun Roamin', KFC's "Shouldn't your cup holder hold our bucket," and last but not least, the exit to Dildo.

The campground was lakeside but on the rustic side with no sewer connections, only 30 amp service, and seriously tight spots. However, the surroundings were private and piney. I walked down to the boat ramp only to find the rocks surrounding it covered with baby toads.



There is interesting aviation history in this area. On December 12, 1985, 248 members of the 101st Airborne and 8 crew perished when their DC8 crashed shortly after takeoff from **Gander International Airport**. The military charter originated in Egypt with stopovers in Germany and then Gander with the intended final destination of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. A memorial was erected in 1995 at the crash site.



Gander International Airport also welcomed 38 transatlantic airplanes diverted from the U.S. airspace on 9/11. The town population nearly doubled as they cared for and housed approximately 7,000 passenger and crew members.



**Leg 17 - Peyton's Woods RV Park
Twillingate, Newfoundland**
July 21 and 22
Contributed by: Fay Carter



On Thursday, we drove about 60 miles from Gander to Twillingate, one of the oldest seaports in Newfoundland. Twillingate is a very picturesque town settled around 1700 by the French. It became the main commercial base in the area.

A few people had to make some minor repairs to their rigs once we arrived. Then people split up to do some exploring, shopping, laundry, etc. before our scheduled meeting to carpool to our entertainment for the night, the **Split Peas**.



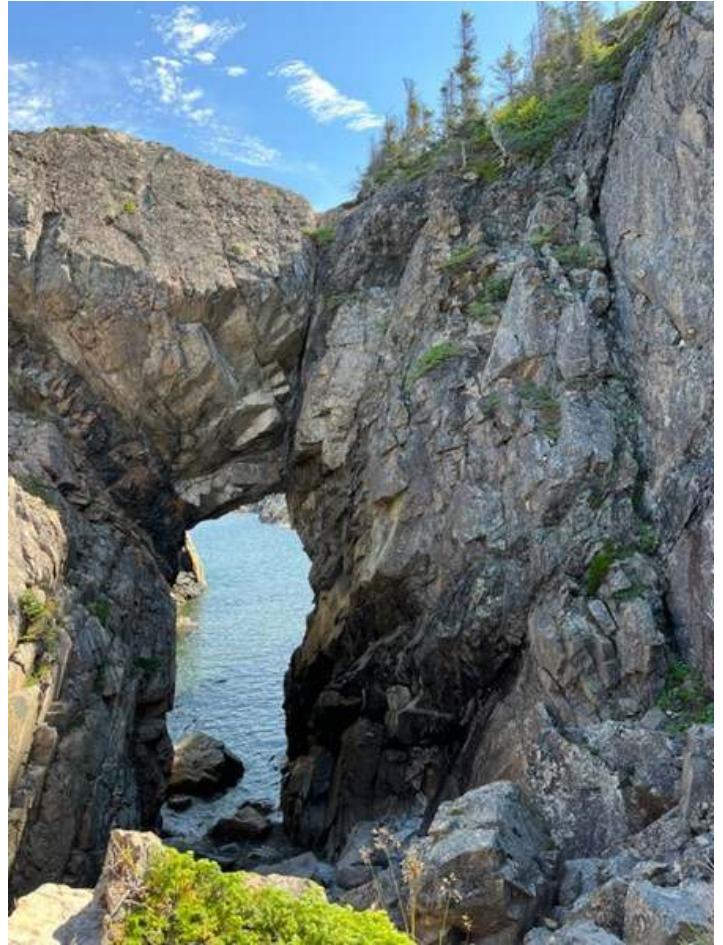
The Split Peas are a local group of six women who have sung and entertained together for 30 years. There was singing, clapping, and stomping of feet. Two of our members, Linda and Tony, helped with the demonstration of the ugly stick. There was lots of laughter, sing-a-longs, and Jon and Jeff danced a jig with the mummies. These women brought the feel of a Newfoundland kitchen party to the stage! The songs are mostly Newfoundland folk songs, some even written by a singer-songwriter in the group. The evening ended with the pipe organ being played by another member of the group and the audience participating in the singing.



Far left and upper left: Linda and Tony performed with the **Split Peas** on their "Ugly Sticks" while the caravan cheered them on.

Left: The venue for the performance was the historical **St. Peter's Anglican Church**, one of the oldest wooden churches in Newfoundland, 177 years old to be exact. The stained-glass windows, the pipe organ, and the pulpit with a staircase to get up to it were all something to behold.

On Friday, Glenda and Doug met me at 7:00 am to drive to **Spillers Cove Hiking Trail**. We followed Durrell Road to the very end and parked, walked past a gate, and began the 7 km hike. We met Nina and George on the trail and hiked with them for a bit. Great views but the trail was very rocky in places, so you had to be careful not to slide. There were plenty of big rocks, and cliffs to just sit on and take photos or watch the whales. It was a wonderful morning to hike until the wind died down and the bugs started to bite!



Right: Linda and Jeff hiked the **Lower Little Harbour Trail**, a 4.5-kilometer hike to the Natural Arch. From the Arch, they hiked the bluffs above the surrounding coves.

The **Long Point Lighthouse** was next on our agenda. This lighthouse went into operation in 1876 and is still staffed by a keeper. The view of the Atlantic from inside the lighthouse was magnificent and the whales were plentiful. As we have learned, each lighthouse has its own signature. Here, it is a white flash every 5 seconds. When needed, the foghorn sounds a 4 second blast each minute.





Next stop was the **Wooden Boat Builders Museum** housed in the parish hall of St. Peter Anglican Church which opened in 1914. The church is the oldest wooden structure on the island of Newfoundland and shares the parish hall with the museum. The first floor of the museum displays nautical history items.



Shirley and Bruce watch them build a dory.



This circular trap is used to catch snow crabs. A long line with a float on each end connects as many as 60 traps. Each trap is emptied and stacked on the deck. When all traps are up and stacked, they are baited and put back in the water.



Hank, Squeaky, Terry, and Doug admired the punt that will be raffled off in February. Brennan was concerned that there was no place for a motor. The guide quickly came back saying it was powered by an Armstrong Motor sometimes referred to as paddles.

Upstairs in the museum, we visited with the boat builders who told us it takes approximately 5 months to build a boat/punt. They only use spruce and fir to make the boats. The people in this museum are working hard to keep this craft alive.

Then we visited the **Twillingate Museum and Gift Shop** housed in St. Peter's Anglican Rectory. There were many beautiful antiques, furniture, and artifacts dating to the 1700s. The craft/gift shop offered handmade items such as jellies, tapestries, hooked mats, and Ugly Sticks.

The evening entertainment was provided by the **Twillingate New World Island Dinner Theatre**. The menu was lobster and mussels, pan fried cod, salmon, or stuffed chicken breast. There was a cash bar that offered a variety of local wines and beers as well as the usual Canadian spirits.



The show was a mix of music and comedy skits that reflect the people who live in this region. All of this was done by the same people who served us! The musicians were all extremely talented. One played 22 instruments playing nine during our program. The skits were very funny, and the performers had as much fun performing them as we did watching.

All in all, with good food and entertainment with the friends we have made and a beautiful sunset, I would say it was a very good ending to our time in Twillingate.





Jeff, Linda, Nancy, Jon, Tony, and Gina

Everyone enjoyed dinner at the **Twillingate New World Island Dinner Theatre.**



Kim, Dennis, George, Nina, Fay, Brenda, and Hank



Doug, Glenda, Tri, Michael, Mike, Marshlyn, Maria



Above: Peggy, Bob, Carol, Terry, Squeaky, Jack, Nell, and Monty



Left: Bruce, Kathy, Shirl, Carl, Fay, Bill, Fan, and Brennan



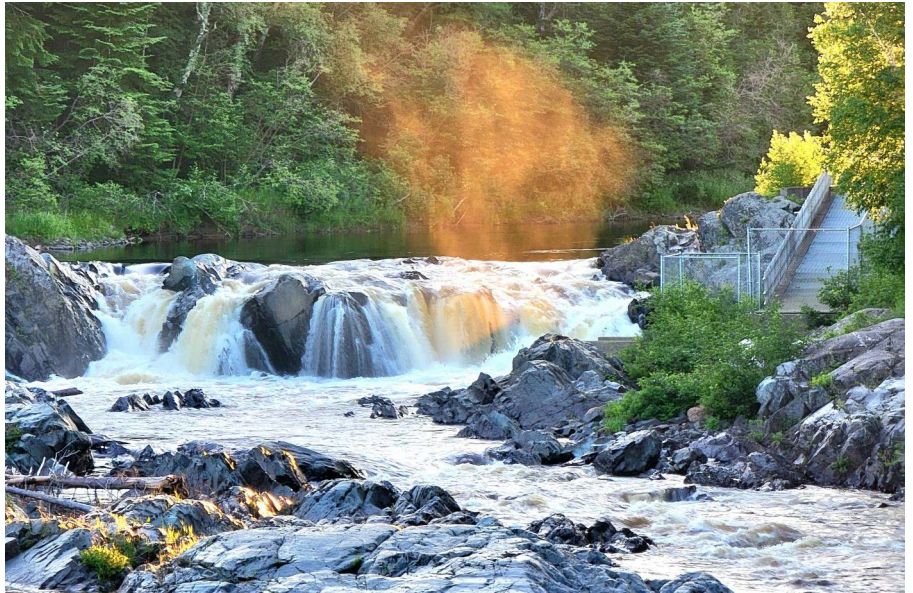
Leg 18 - George Huxter Memorial Park Springdale, Newfoundland

July 23

Contributed by: Kathy and Bruce Abel



We travelled 160 miles to George Huxter Memorial Park near Springdale. This was not the best stop in our trip into Newfoundland because we had to park close together, it was 85 degrees, and the electricity went out for about 6 hours. Some campers made the most of it, finding a hiking trail and a beautiful waterfall with fly fishermen.



Others went into Springdale located on the east coast of Newfoundland on Notre Dame Bay. It is the economic and business center of the Green Bay area, serving smaller outlying communities.



Mike and Marshlyn Reed found a few fabric shops. Mike has a real eye for fabric selection for the quilts he works on all winter.



We visited with Pete Parsons, the owner of a no name museum in Springdale which he built himself and remembers every single beam and nail. He used boards and nails from his grandfather's old store in Lushes Bight. He purposely never labelled anything so people would ask questions, and then proceed to tell him their life stories. CBC's *Land and Sea* filmed the museum about eight years ago. After the filming, Pete closed the museum but is considering reopening the doors.



**Leg 19 - Gros Morne RV/Campground
Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland**
July 24 thru 26

Contributed by: Kathy and Bruce Abel



We travelled 121 miles to Rocky Harbour. All our sightseeing these three days was on our own. We visited **Lobster Cove Lighthouse** which had a good walking trail on the coast with wild strawberries along the way.

Then we travelled to **The Jennix Heritage House**. It is just one of those places where you can take a step back in time and see how a couple raised 14 children in this typical salt box house built in 1926 in rural Newfoundland. This house was moved four times with its last resting place on the beautiful, picturesque lookout, capturing spectacular views of Bonne Bay and Tablelands. As one wanders from room to room, you cannot help but be magically transported back in time.



Carl and Shirley didn't think they would be able to wear these in Florida.

We travelled to **The Discovery Center** about 50 miles from the campground. It is in the heart of the Gros Morne National Park. (*Gros Morne means Big Mountain.*) We toured the center and hiked the Woody Point Trail and the Tablelands Trail to the Winter House Brook Canyon.



This is as close as Michael and Tri want to get to the real animals!



Bruce and Kathy thought this was the only moose they would see.



Tuesday night we were treated to a fish dinner at the campground. Monty fried catfish he had brought from Louisiana and some halibut Jon purchased for the crew. Michael grilled the halibut, so we had a chance to decide which one we liked best. We all supplied the sides and had a good night together before we take off again tomorrow.





**Leg 20 - Triple Falls RV Park
St. Anthony, Newfoundland
July 27 thru 29**

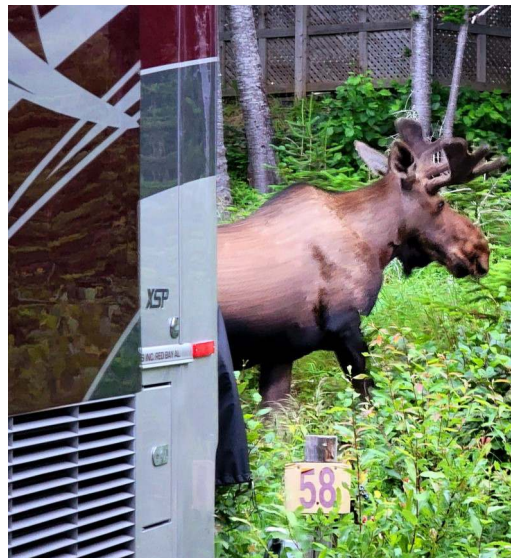
Contributed by: Tri and Michael Northup



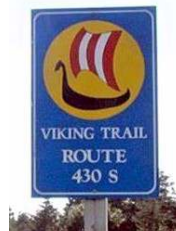
Wednesday was a LONG travel day (216 miles) to St. Anthony. It was a picturesque yet bumpy drive along the coast. The last group did not arrive until after 4 pm. Thankfully, Jon got pizza for the caravan that evening.



Many in the group were very happy as we were finally visited in the campground by a young male moose. He showed up two days in a row and really close to the campers.



Thursday was a free day allowing everyone to explore the area on their own even in the 45 degrees with lots of cold wind. The most interesting place that we visited was the **L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site**. Designated a UNESCO world heritage site in 1978, it provides evidence of one of the great steps in human migration and is the only authentic Viking site in North America.



The meadows contain the remains of an 11th century Viking Base camp. It was a very cold and windy day, and some of the group braved the weather and did a walking tour of the base camp while others elected to just explore the visitors center and enjoy a 17-minute video explaining the history of how the Vikings came to arrive at L'Anse aux Meadows.



Peggy, Monty, Brennan, and Fan on the cold walking tour.



Which one is Leif Erikson?



Friday was another chilly 45-degree Fahrenheit day but NO wind. We all went on a 2-hour whale watching boat ride with the “**Northland Discovery**” boat tours. We saw lots of Humpbacks, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, even though it was very cold. This waterway was where the Labrador Sea meets the Atlantic.



Oceanographers identify the individual whales by the coloring on their tails.





Terry and Squeaky



Bruce and Kathy



Linda and Jeff



Carol and Bob



Peggy and Monty



Brennan and Fan



Nell and Maria



Gina and Tony



Marshlyn and Mike

Friday night we joined the **Canadian Legion Branch #17** for dinner. There were two choices: a Newfoundland traditional “Jigg’s Dinner” of salt beef riblets, boiled potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and turnips with Pease pudding and figgy duff, or you could order the fish platter. Oh yea, and pie with ice cream for dessert.

They had some great music for everyone’s enjoyment and gave us an opportunity to be screeched in to become a “Newfie.” Many in our group were brave enough to accept the challenge to become honorary Newfoundlanders.



You had to do the following:

1. Say, “How can you do anything, if you have nothing to do anything with?” but you had to say it really fast with the Newfoundland accent. “How do ya ahspect me to do dat ting when you ain’t give me nutting to do dat ting witt?”
2. Eat Newfoundland food: a piece of bologna, dried salty capelin, and molasses bread.
3. Drink a shot of Screech rum.
4. Talk sexy to and kiss a frozen cod.
5. Dance a Newfoundland jig.



Squeaky talked the Newfie language, but Terry warned our host not to mess with her!!!



Gina surprised our host with her cod kissing!

Terry, Bob, Carol, and Michael showing off their jig and Glenda showing off her “official” Newfie certificate!





**Leg 21 - Gros Morne RV/Campground
Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland**

July 30

Contributed by: Carol and Bob Cane



On our drive up to and from St. Anthony's, some of us made a quick stop at **The Arches Provincial Park** to view arches formed millions of years ago by wind, water, and other environmental changes. Here you can view the beautiful tuckamore and take a path that leads to the pebble beach below, where you can spot the awe-inspiring rock formation. The three porous arches have been eroded by thousands of years of sea wave action where you can now see the wild ocean crashing through them. Originally numbering four, one arch has completely collapsed.

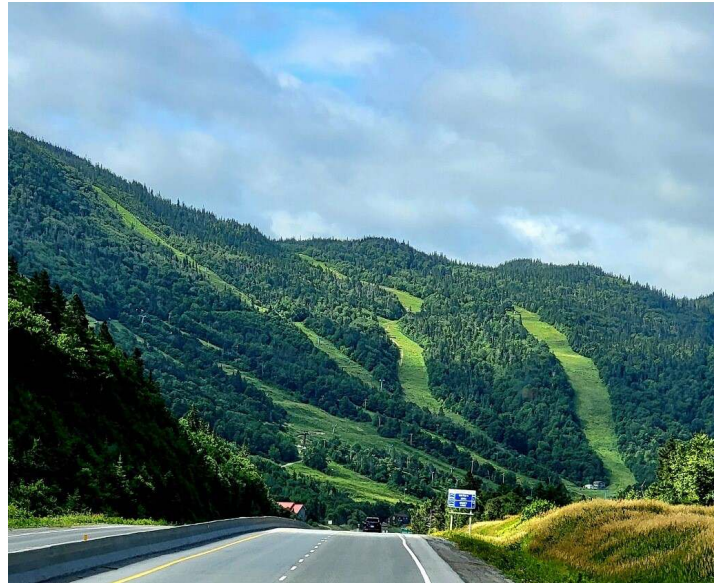


Others in the group stopped by the **Salmon Interpretation Center** located on the Torrent River. This successful salmon fish way has 34 ladders or pools for the salmon to climb upriver to spawn starting in mid-June each year. By the end of September, the fish will go down the 35' foot fall back to the ocean.



We have seen many "moose crossing" signs in Newfoundland, especially in the northern part of Newfoundland where moose are most prevalent. Oddly enough, moose did not inhabit Newfoundland until 1904 when they were brought from New Brunswick. Besides the ones we saw last night in the campground in St. Anthony, we saw one trying to cross the road as we headed back to Gros Morne RV Park.

The 216 mile ride from St. Anthony back to Gros Morne in Rocky Harbor was long, but there were some interesting sites along the way such as the ski and snowmobile trails on the mountain.



We were curious about the cut wood we saw stacked along the roads. The waitress at the local restaurant in St. Anthony told us that individuals pay a fee to cut wood on crown land, the wood is hauled to the side of the road, then later transported to their houses, and used for heat in winter. Everyone knows their own lumber, but often the permit number is painted on a board and is attached to the pile. She said her grandfather rents a plot and if anyone steals the wood, they would not be welcome here.



The best soil for growing vegetables is the soil that was brought in when the roads were built years ago up on the Northern Peninsula. That is why you see the gardens alongside the road. People just pick a spot; no permit is needed. Whether it's wood or garden produce, people respect each other, and theft is not a problem.





Leg 22 - Grand Codroy RV & Tent Camping Park Doyles, Newfoundland

July 31

Contributed by: Carol and Bob Cane



Following a challenging day on the road for 185 miles, we all arrived safely and were treated to an unexpected dinner of fried chicken with all the “fixens” from a local restaurant. For many of us, it was our first-time eating potato salad with chunks of apple and peas in it - different, but good.

The building we gathered in for supper had a wall full of empty Screech bottles welcoming “new” Newfoundlanders. There was a well-stocked shop with all local crafts next to the office. The campground had lots of grassy areas and the buildings were painted in bright colors, reminiscent of fishing villages we’ve seen throughout our trip.

This was a convenient one-night stop for traveling to the ferry the next morning.



Despite the long day, the Shaws and Masons ventured out to see a waterfall and, of course, a lighthouse, and some walked the campground trails.

We were all rewarded with a beautiful sunset.

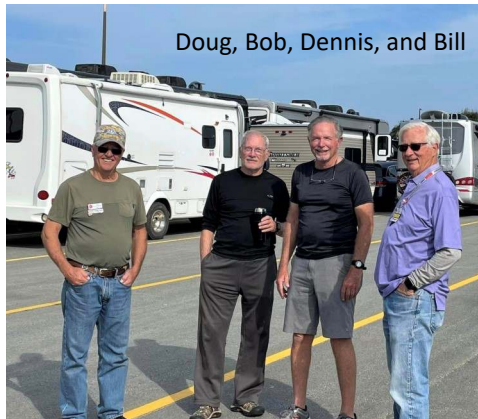
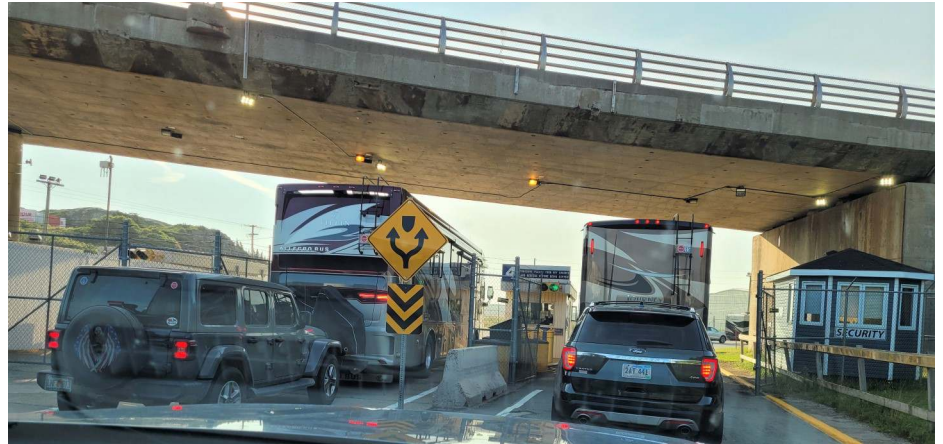


Leg 23 - Day Ferry
North Sydney, Nova Scotia
August 1

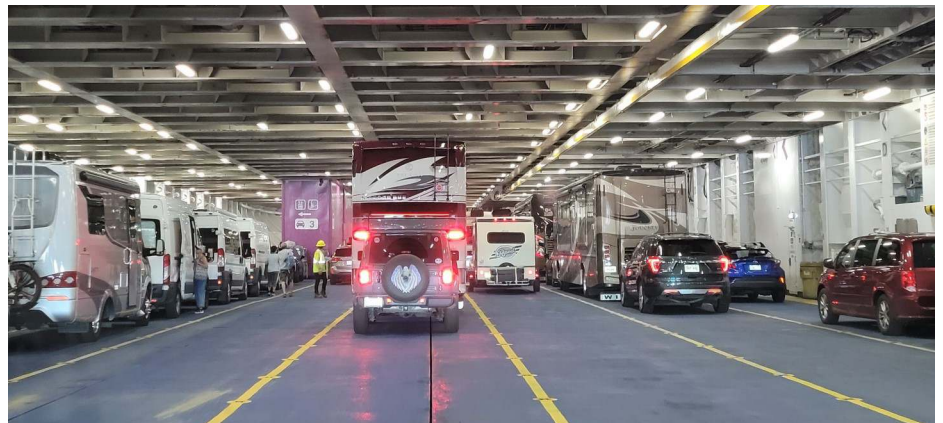
(Contributed by: Carol and Bob Cane)



After leaving bright and early, we arrived in the ferry parking lot in Channel Port aux Basques, Newfoundland, with lots of time to spare prior to boarding for the trip to North Sydney, Nova Scotia. Being a smaller vessel, it was a much quicker and smoother process. It also allowed for car-side chats and recapping of our time in Newfoundland.



Doug, Bob, Dennis, and Bill





Brennan, Linda, Fan, and Jeff

Once on board, the seating areas were very comfortable, and everyone was able to get settled and enjoy wandering about, checking out the eating areas, gift shop and various levels of accommodations, and playing cards.



While enjoying the departing views of Newfoundland, some of us were fortunate to see dolphins and whales possibly for the last time on this trip. They were too fast to take a picture of, but we all tried. They never cease to thrill.



Glenda, Gina, Dennis, Peggy, Tony, Jan, and Terry

One of the nice benefits of longer days in the maritime provinces is it ensures we had lots of daylight to travel and get set up. Returning to Arms of Gold Campground was a great way to end the day and look forward to a non-moving day tomorrow.



Left: Nell, Jack, and Maria



Leg 24 - Arm of Gold Campground
Little Bras D'or, Nova Scotia
August 1 and 2

Contributed by: Kim and Dennis Jennings



One of our options for things to see and do at this location was the **Fortress of Louisburg National Historic Site**. For those who opted out of visiting the Fortress, all I can say is, "they missed a gem." The Fortress of Louisburg is a national historic site and the location of a one-quarter partial reconstruction of an 18th-century French Fortress on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.



Its two sieges, especially that of 1758, were turning points in the Anglo-French struggle for what today is Canada. The original settlement was made in 1713. Subsequently, the fishing port grew to become a major commercial port and a strongly defended fortress. The fortifications eventually surrounded the town. By the mid-1740s, Louisburg, named for Louis the 14th of France, was one of the most extensive (and expensive) European fortifications constructed in North America.



The Fortress Louisburg suffered a key weakness; it was erected on low lying ground commanded by nearby hills, and its design was directed mainly toward sea-based assaults, leaving the land-facing defenses relatively weak. It was also a long way from France and Quebec from which reinforcements might have been sent. It was returned to the French in exchange for border towns in what is today Belgium.





The Fort inside the fortress was one of the highlights of the tour. The midday cannon was fired serenaded by fife and drums.



George, Nina, and Kim



Tuesday started off with Michael and Tri cooking breakfast burritos for the caravan. Great way to start our last day at Arm of Gold Campground.

Some of us visited **Lighthouse Point**, the site of the first light house in Canada, built in 1734. The lighthouse that looks out over Louisburg harbor these days is the fourth one built on this site and is nearly 100 years old.

Dennis and Terry played golf at Seaview Golf & Country Club, leaving their marks (I'm sure more than one, I dare say) in Nova Scotia.



Tony, Gina, Dennis, Kathy, and Bruce enjoying breakfast.



Kudos to Nina for rounding up most of the guys and getting them to smile.

Front: Jack, Brennan, Doug

Back: Mike, Jon, Tony, Dennis, Michael, Bob, Terry, George, Dennis, and Jeff



**Leg 25 - Scotia Pine Campground
Brookfield, Nova Scotia
August 3**

Contributed by: Hank and Brenda Landry



Wednesday was a travel day, a tiring 4.5-hour road trip from Arm of Gold in Little Bras D'or to Scotia Pine Campground. This was our second stay at Scotia Pine.

The glowing comments from the people who visited the "Masstown Market" and the "Catch of the Bay" fresh fish market on our first visit prompted many of us to quickly set up our RVs and visit there. The "Masstown Market" is known for its large variety of specialty foods and treats, including 16 flavors of hand-dipped ice cream. As its name implies, the "Catch of the Bay" provided the opportunity to purchase fresh caught fish and shellfish.



**Leg 26 - Cornwall-Charlottetown KOA
Cornwall, Prince Edward Island
August 4 thru 6**

Contributed by: Linda and Jeff MacLeod



This 180-mile trip to Prince Edward Island included 8 miles over the **Confederation Bridge**, the world's longest bridge over water that ices. The bridge has a hefty toll for an RV, but we won't pay it until we leave.

Our first look at the businesses on the PEI side of the bridge showed us how different PEI is from the other three provinces. It looked like home except the signs were in English and French.



Many of us toured the **Green Gables Heritage Place** in Cavendish to see the house that inspired the Anne of Green Gables book written by L. M. Montgomery in 1908. For those wanting more things “Anne,” there were side trips to the Anne of Green Gables Museum, The Anne of Green Gables Store in Charlottetown, and the birthplace of L. M. Montgomery.



Kathy, Bruce, Nina, and Dennis wait to tour the house that inspired Anne's house in the book.

This story, set in the late 19th century, recounts the adventures of an 11-year-old red-headed orphan girl named Anne Shirley who is sent by mistake to two middle-aged siblings who lives on Prince Edward Island.

It is amazing that this sentimental but charming coming-of-age story that has been translated to 39 languages is timeless and appeals to both teenagers and adults alike.

Lucy Maud Montgomery (*right*) wrote this dialogue for Anne Shirley which is very apropos for our caravan: “Isn't it interesting to think of all the things there are to find out about? It just makes me feel glad to be alive – it's such an interesting



There were several hiking trails around the house - Haunted Woods Trail, Balsam Hollow Trail, and Lovers' Lane.

Above: Brennan and Fan and Gina and Tony definitely had to hold hands as they strolled down Lovers' Lane.





Back at the campground, the pavilion by the water was the site for the **Red vs. White Chili Cook-off**. Samples were ladled out and our plates were filled in with cornbread and other delicious sides and desserts. Brennan insisted that there had to be a prize for the winner, so at the end of the meal he took a vote. White Chili garnered the most votes, and Jon and Nancy were presented with a prize basket of donated goodies; Michael and Tri received a consolation basket as a “thank you.” Later we relaxed in the Adirondack chairs overlooking the water and appreciated the cooler breezes.



Terry, Squeaky, Jeff, Linda, Bob, and Carol graciously “volunteered” to be the chili taste testers.

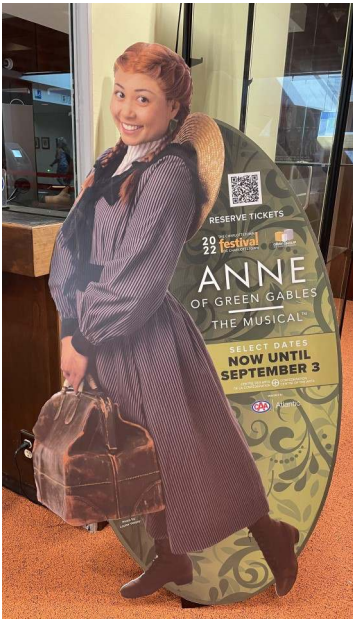
Saturday morning, we hiked several trails through the forest, across woodland meadows, and along the West River in the **Bonshaw Hills Provincial Park**. Others in our group went on different hikes, visited the Farmers' Market in Charlottetown, explored the boardwalk, and got in some shopping.



Charlottetown was quite close to the campground and offered so much to do. We went to a free concert at the **Confederation Centre** outdoor amphitheater. The guidebook called the performance "Island Vibe," and we falsely assumed that referred to Prince Edward Island. The colorful costumes, songs and dances let us know right away it meant the Caribbean Islands! Many of the young people in the cast were performing in public for the very first time.



Doug, Glenda, Terry, and Dennis visited the beautiful **Roman Catholic Church of Notre Dame du Mont Carmel**. It is the spiritual home of many Acadian families in the Mont Carmel area of Prince Edward Island.



“Anne of Green Gables: The Musical” was a highlight of the afternoon for many. Those that attended reported that it captured the essence of Anne’s life




That evening, we gathered at the **New Glasgow Lobster Supper** restaurant. This PEI tradition started as a fund-raiser in a small building with no kitchen in 1958 and has grown into a large building housing a famous restaurant that seats hundreds. It was a five course meal with chowder and mussels appetizers, salad plate, an entrée, and dessert. Our entrees included a choice of lobster, haddock, or salmon and no one left hungry! It was a memorable conclusion to this leg of our trip.



Having fun at New Glasgow Lobster Supper!



Hank, Brenda, Kitty, Jon, Nancy, and Fay.



Jan, Bill, Dennis, Kim, Nina, and George



Monty, Marshlyn, and Mike

Right: Kathy, Shirl, Carl, and Bruce



Jack, Nell, Maria, and Maria's cousin.



Dennis, Terry, Fan, and Brennan



Michael, Tri, Linda, Jeff, Doug, and Glenda





Leg 27 - Crystal Beach Campground
New Annan, Prince Edward Island
August 7 thru 10

Contributed by: Nina and George Hutcherson



We traveled only 35 miles today to Crystal Beach Campground but were rewarded with some beautiful waterfront sites and a magnificent sunset.



Fay and Brenda ventured into the water which was surprisingly shallow for a long way out. They came back with clam shells.



We then visited **Teacup Rock** at Thunder Cove. These sandstone cliffs are beautiful but very fragile. Most of the PEI coastline consists of wide beaches and fine sand, but the cliffs, sea stacks, and caves are at the mercy of almost constant wind and waves.



Nina and Kim at Teacup Rock



On our way to the Cape Egmont Lighthouse, we enjoyed a caravan sponsored lunch at **Carr's Oyster Bar**. Lots of lunch options for us all including fish and chips, chowder, and lobster and shrimp tacos



Cape Egmont Lighthouse was built in 1884. It was strategically placed on the southwest shore between the West Point and Sea Cow lighthouses to serve commercial vessels as well as local lobster fishing boats. By 1958, electricity had been installed in the lighthouse, eliminating the need for a keeper. The lighthouse was moved inland to its current position in April, 2000, due to severe erosion. We unexpectedly found stunning views of sandstone arches, jagged cliffs, and smokestacks right over the edge near the lighthouse.





The **Bottle Houses**, located in the southwest area of Prince Edward Island, are unusual and unique, and a highlight for many of our group. Edouard Arsenault had long dreamed of building structures using an assortment of bottles. In the spring of 1980 at the age of 66, he started cementing glass bottles together to create buildings. By the time he finished in 1984, he had three buildings and had used over 25,000 bottles - very effective recycling!

Edouard's first building was the six-gabled house making use of 12,000 bottles. He traveled all over PEI to dance halls, legions, restaurants, and local dumps to find his bottles. Once the locals heard about his endeavor to use bottles for these buildings, they also contributed to his collection. The Tavern was the next building, followed by the Chapel with over 10,000 bottles used. In 2008, his grandsons created a 13' giant bottle at the front of the property. This is the place to visit for those who have an appreciation for unique art and nature!



We had fun going to an outdoor free concert at the **Spinnaker's Landing** waterfront marketplace. The marketplace design was based on a fishing village. Besides the concert, we enjoyed visiting the shops that included local art and Celtic giftware. Our number one activity was eating the delicious ice cream made with renowned PEI cream!! Tony, Monty, Doug, and Dennis waited "patiently" for the girls to shop!!!



The **Canadian Potato Museum** is located on the western side of PEI. It was surprising (at least for us) that PEI provides 25% of Canada's potatoes. Idaho had better start more planting! The museum certainly provided a strong case for the usefulness and nutritiousness of the humble potato. Over 15 varieties of potatoes are grown on PEI (another surprise).

Some of the campers visited the **Green Park Ship Building Museum** and the **Yeo House** which is supposedly haunted. Gina swore she “felt” and saw a ghost! The tour guide was a descendent of the shipbuilding magnate with great information.



Brennan enjoyed the demonstration by the blacksmith.

A rattan coffin is displayed in a Victorian-era living room. It is a cold coffin to let the “dead” breathe if they are not really dead. Note the pictures are turned around and the mirror is covered.





Our third day at Crystal Beach started with heavy rains and high winds that lasted most of the day. Thankfully, the lobster dinner at **Fisherman's Wharf** improved everyone's mood considerably. We enjoyed a good meal and great fellowship.





Leg 28 - Kiwanis Oceanfront
St. Andrews, New Brunswick
August 11 thru 13

Contributed by: Nell Dahl



Our last leg in beautiful Canada was in St. Andrews New Brunswick. We arrived in the Kiwanis Oceanfront Campground after traveling 248 miles from our previous destination. It was a long day, but we were rewarded with a delicious Lobster Dinner. Our last stop in Canada was very emotional for me personally! After leaving Fort Worth, Texas, on June 1st, I was a little home sick, but this has been such a trip of a lifetime I also did not want it to end.

While in Saint Andrews, New Brunswick, we visited **Kingsbrae Gardens**. I am a flower child, and this garden did not disappoint. It had 50,000 perennials, ponds, remarkable sculptures, birds, and a few animals. We had visited the Halifax Public Gardens back on June 23. The flower beds in Halifax had only been recently planted so the little baby flowers had not filled out the beds yet. The Kingsbrae Gardens have had almost six weeks to grow and bloom and fill out the beds with their size and glory. It was a sight to see and enjoy. A real treasure for me, a plant lover.

The next day some of us visited **Campobello Island** where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's 34 room Summer Home is preserved as it was in 1920. There were docents in most of the many houses and out buildings telling of the history of that particular building. The Prince Café was another culinary treasure. Campobello serves as a symbol of peace between the United States and Canada, another real treasure to visit on our last day in Canada.

My personal reflections of this 2022 SMART Maritime Caravan.

Canada is beautiful, beyond recognition, filled with lush green fields and forest, wildflowers galore, and water! Water and more water! Not only the beautiful Atlantic Ocean, but lakes and ponds everywhere. And the people are friendly and helpful – even if they are a little hard to understand because of their accents.

The friends we have made on this caravan are priceless. There are not enough words to describe how helpful they have been to us. Helpful, generous, loving, forgiving, friendly, funny, etc.

The Wagon Masters – Jon and Nancy Katin – have been the best! I cannot imagine all of the hours and hours you have put in to put this caravan together and to keep us together. And the patience you have shown to each of us!

The Tail Gunners – Michael and Tri Northup. Your care and love you have shown to us personally has been a priceless gift. I never worried about getting left behind or losing our way because you always had our back. Thanks again and again and again.







**Leg 29 - Pumpkin Patch RV Resort
Hermon, Maine**

August 14 and 15

Contributed by: Nina Hutcherson and Fan Disher



It all started and ended here at Pumpkin Patch from June 14 to August 15. For 62 days, we travelled together, played together, ate together, toured together, hiked together, took pictures together, and laughed and talked a lot.

We mostly caravanned in the same four groups learning each other's RV numbers, driving habits, and donut eating habits making friends along the way. It was a summer we won't forget!



Leading the Pack: #1 - Nancy and Jon Katin, #3 - Squeaky and Terry Mayes, #10 - Bruce and Kathy Abel, #12 - Brenda and Hank Landry, #15 - Carol and Bob Cain



The Hutcherson Group

- #5 - Nina & George Hutcherson
- #9 - Mike & Marshlyn Reed
- #13 - Fay Carter
- #21 - Maria Atkinson
- #28 - Jack Allen & Nell Dahl



The Ledet Group

- #19 - Monty & Peggy Ledet
- #6 - Bill Lemna & Jan DeBlois
- #7 - Shirley & Carl Mikuletzky
- #9 - Kim & Dennis Jennings
- #22 - Kitty Francen



The Mason Group

- #18 - Gina & Tony Mason
- #8 - Doug & Glenda McClendon
- #14 - Jeff & Linda MacLeod
- #16 - Fan & Brennan Disher
- #17 - Dennis & Terry Shaw



Tailgunners:

- #2 - Michael & Tri Northup

Campers' Activity Page:

Name these lighthouses and text or call your new friends to check your answers.



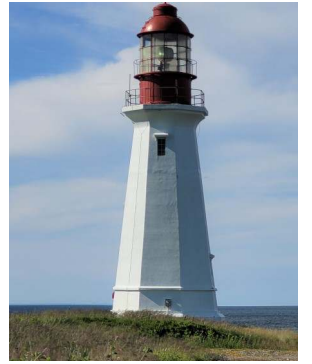
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#10



#11



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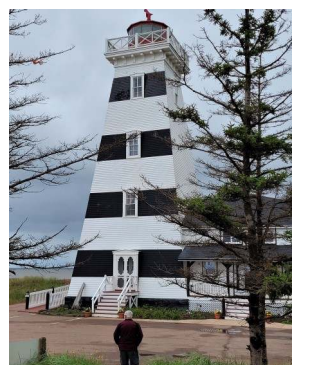
#13



#14



#15



#16

Personal Bios

Contributed by each individual



#1 Jon and Nancy Katin

Jon and Nancy Katin reside in Albany, Oregon, when not in their motorhome. They have been RVing since 1967 in a tent trailer, travel trailer, 5th wheel, and currently in their 4th motorhome. They are fortunate to have their 3 children, 8 of 9 grandchildren and 1 of 2 great grandchildren living within 150 miles of home where Nancy loves being “Nana.” Jon served 27.5 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His overseas assignments included two tours in Vietnam, two years in Saudi Arabia, and four years in Schweinfurt, Germany. After retiring from the Army, Jon worked 14 years for the city of Corvallis, Oregon. Nancy spent more than 20 years as a travel agent and travel office manager.



#2 Michael and Tri Northup

Michael and Tri formerly lived in Oceanside, California and are now full-time RVers. Michael served 35 years of active duty in the U.S. Army where he was an aircraft maintenance officer and test pilot. He married Tri in Viet Nam in July of 1969. They have five children, five grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.



#3 Terry and Squeaky Mayes

Terry and Squeaky met at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he worked the drug team for CID and she was a nurse. They married in 1983. In 1987, Terry got orders for Germany. While there for six years, they caught the travel bug, and their plan was to retire and travel. In 2019, that dream came true when they both retired from healthcare. They’ve enjoyed their travels and hope to continue to travel to interesting places and make new friends. They are temporarily full timers with their dog, Dumpster, and their cat, Mr. Bud. This past year, they decided to move closer to their daughter in Augusta, Georgia, and are looking forward to building their new home in South Carolina on 28 acres with a pond.



#4 Dennis and Kim Jennings

Colonel (Ret) Dennis Jennings served 25 years on active duty with his wife of 39 years, Kimberly. Assignments included tours in Texas, North Carolina, Kansas, Korea, Sinai, and Italy. Dennis was deployed on three different occasions – Project Urgent Fury (Grenada), Desert Shield and Storm, and Iraqi Freedom. Dennis and Kim have three daughters - Jessica, Lauren, and Kristin. Kim is an accomplished artist and graphic designer. Kim and Dennis have a residence in Tucson, Arizona, as well as spending 4-6 months annually traveling in their RV.



#5 George and Nina Hutcherson

Nina and George live in Cherokee County, Georgia, in the Atlanta area (“How ‘bout those Braves!”). Both are Navy veterans, and George completed 26 years of combined active and reserve duty before retiring. They enjoy traveling internationally but have focused on North America over the last few years. Nina is an avid tennis player and an area coordinator for the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association (tele-coordinating when traveling). George collects jokes.



#6 Bill Lemna and Jan DeBlois

Bill is from Illinois, and Jan is from New England. They have been living in Florida for quite awhile - Bill in Punta Gorda and Jan in the Fort Myers area. They met three and a half years ago and found many commonalities such as tennis, fishing, hiking, cooking, and traveling. It works!



#7 Carl and Shirl Mikuletzky

Carl and Shirl lived in southern New Jersey for 60 years. Carl had several jobs until he settled on auto body repair. He owned an auto body shop for 20 years but is still a handyman in many areas. Shirl worked for INA/CIGNA insurance companies. She enjoys games, cooking, and relaxing on a beach. Carl learned to fly in the early 1980s and retired to a small airport community in the Florida Keys in 2008. They enjoy traveling and still have a few places on their bucket list. Neither of them were in the military, but they were honored to travel with this SMART caravan.



#8 Doug and Glenda McClendon

Doug and Glenda are from McAllen, Texas. Doug served in the Navy submarine service in Norfolk, Charleston, and Holylock, Scotland. Glenda is the daughter of a career Army father. Doug developed an RV park, started on oil/uranium service company, and other businesses before retirement, Glenda retired after 46 years as a teacher, counselor, and administrator for counseling. They have 2 children and 3 wonderful grandchildren. They’ve had their brown Roadtrek Class B motorhome, “Hershey Bar,” for five years. This is their first caravan and first SMART gathering. This SMART Caravan was a special 50th anniversary gift for each other.



#9 Michael and Marshlyn Reed

Michael and Marshlyn Reed reside in Addison, Vermont. Michael served in the U.S. Navy, and Marshlyn had a career in nursing. Michael’s focus was the auto parts business. Marshlyn’s passion was breeding, raising, and training miniature donkeys. They have 4 children, 5 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. The empty nest has been filled with miniature dachshunds which travel with them. Michael’s hobbies included tractor pulling, forming flying clubs to promote pilot training, and quilting. Marshlyn’s hobbies include sewing and attending quilting retreats. This was their first caravan, and they have made many new and great friendships.



#10 Bruce and Katherine Abel

Bruce and Kathy call Montevideo, Montana, home. Bruce retired as a heavy equipment operator after 45 years. Kathy worked in the Montevideo School District for 29 years. They have two sons: Bryon, training director of International Union of Operating Engineers and Pipeline Contractors Association, and Darin, CEO of Echo Farmers Co-Op Oil. They also have four grandchildren. This is their first caravan.



#11 Bruce and Carol Gardner

Bruce spent six years in the U.S. Army Reserves. Bruce and Carol met in Bermuda twenty-three years ago and have been together ever since. They started RVing in 2005 and travel as much as they can hoping to continue for many years. They enjoy being part of SMART and hope to continue.



#12 Hank and Brenda Landry

Hank and Brenda call Weslaco, Texas, home. Hank was born and raised in Boston and left there at 19 to join the U.S. Navy. Brenda is a Texas girl who has lived in the Rio Grande Valley her whole life. They met in Harlingen, Texas, and married in 2017. Hank is a 30 year veteran of the U.S. Navy, and Brenda has retired from her bookkeeping business. Since retiring they have been traveling abroad and in the USA enjoying new places and visiting family and friends.



#13 Fay Carter

Fay was an educator and retired from the Tulsa Public School System. She lives in Weslaco, Texas. Fay's deceased husband, Jay, served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Fay loves to travel, ride, train horses, dance, read, hike, and attend classic car shows.



#14 Jeff and Linda MacLeod

Jeff and Linda live in Rome, Georgia. Jeff joined the Army, completing Infantry OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia. He served briefly with the military intelligence battalion and was sent to Vietnam where he was a company commander in the 160th Signal Core Group. Jeff practiced law for 32 years. He has two children and four grandchildren. Linda retired from a career in medical education and research. Music occupies much of their time playing and singing bluegrass, country, and gospel at the Georgia Mountain Music Club, bluegrass jams, churches, nursing homes, and now, RV caravans. They also enjoy hiking, walking, and outdoor activities. This is their first caravan with SMART.



#15 Bob and Carol Cain

Bob retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1996 following a 22 year career in aviation. Carol left the Air Force in 1992 after a 15 year career in health care. Their second careers allowed both them to pursue their interest in various sports, like cycling, long distance walking, and other competitive events. After selling their home and still enjoying good health, they decided to try RVing and purchased their first motorhome in 2020. After a shake down trip to Mexico, they decided to go full time and have been experiencing this life style since April, 2020. The million dollar question is, "How long will we be full time?" Current plans are until they are ready for a full time sticks and bricks or they try something else.



#16 Brennan and Fan Disher

Brennan and Fan live in Covington, Louisiana. They grew up together and have been married 53 years. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great granddaughter, all living within 100 miles of home. Brennan took his commission through ROTC and served in the U.S. Reserve Army Combat Engineer unit for eight years. He was a project engineer for Texaco/Chevron in offshore facilities construction for 25 years and consulted for oilfield companies for 15 more years. Fan taught high school math as well as Chemistry for 25 years at Morgan City High School finishing her career at Mandeville High School teaching AP Calculus and Precalculus for 28 years. They spend all the rest of their free time at their river home near Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana.



#17 Dennis and Terry Shaw

Dennis and Terry have lived in Hot Springs, South Dakota, for six years after living in California for 30 years. Dennis served in the U.S. Army with one tour in Vietnam. He was then in the U.S. Air Force reserve until Agent Orange colon cancer almost took his life. Dennis was a Heavy Duty Mechanic and Construction Superintendent. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren between them. Terry and Dennis love the wide-open spaces and conservative thinking in South Dakota and love their dogs, Vadar and Loki, and their cat, Nitro. Terry worked as a Mental Health Clinician, likes to quilt, and they both love to travel. At home, they have a 50 amp plug-in and space to park an RV for anyone that would like to visit. They live at the bottom of the Black Hills, close to Custer State Park, Crazy Horse, and Mount Rushmore.



#18 Tony and Gina Mason

Tony and Gina are from Ruskin, Florida. They joined SMART and the Buccaneers and Gold Coaster groups in Florida in 2018. Their Springer Spaniel, Bentley, is a great traveler. Tony retired from the Air Force after 20 years as an avionics specialist, battle damage repair technician/assessor, acquisition program office avionics team designing technical data for the F22. He then worked at the DSCC as Contraction administrator for 6 years. When he received a call to work as an acquisition development/fielding logistician procuring equipment for Special Operations Command in Florida, away they went! Tony retired from the US-COM after 17 years of service. Gina was an elementary teacher and teacher-trainer, retiring after 41 years of service. They have 4 girls and 5 grandchildren between them. They celebrated their 24th year together during this Maritimes trip.



#19 Monty and Peggy Ledet

Monty and Peggy Ledet are from South Louisiana. They have been married for 47 years and are blessed with three sons and five grandchildren. Monty is a retired river pilot, and Peggy is a retired nurse. They have been RVing for five years and do it with their fur babies, Chewie and Roux.



#20 Jack Allen and Nell Dahl

Jack and Nell still have a house in River Oaks, Texas, near Fort Worth. From the yard, they can hear Reveille and Taps from the Air Force Base, and they always stand and sing when the National Anthem is played. Jack proudly served in the U.S. Navy for eight years. His ship, the USS Little Rock, is now a museum in Buffalo, New York. After the Navy, Jack worked for various law enforcement departments and retired in 2004 as Constable of Tarrant County. They have been RV'ing in some fashion for most of their 40 years together. During the motorcycle phase, they pulled a pop-up tent trailer. Before that, a trailer, and now several motor homes which they prefer. This is their second SMART Caravan and hope to enjoy several more before they hang up the keys.



#21 Maria Atkinson

Maria is one of 8 children born to Italian parents. She married her high school sweetheart who had joined the U.S. Navy. They moved to San Diego where they had three children, two boys and a girl. They raised their children in San Diego where her daughter married and stayed, giving her two grandchildren. Her oldest boy moved to Michigan where her oldest grandson is. Her middle boy is married and lives in Humboldt, California. Her children give her a reason to travel. When they were young, they tented quite a lot. She purchased her motorhome in August, 2019, and has managed to put on 35,000 miles. She had various careers and for the last 20 years was a real estate broker. Her greatest joy was raising their children and now enjoys being Nana.



#22 Kitty Francen

Kitty was raised in Ohio and joined the U.S. Marine Corp in 1966. She learned to operate the first Marine Corps computer under the direction of her future husband. After she discharged in 1970, her son was born, her husband was shipped to Okinawa, and she went back to Ohio. Her husband retired at Quantico, and they moved to Minnesota. Kitty retired in 2005 as an IBM executive project manager. Her husband passed in 2004, and Kitty became a full-timer having never even been in a motorhome. She bought a used Class A diesel pusher and began volunteering at state parks, Balloon Fiesta, and RV rallies to see how cheaply she could live. She loved it, but decided to "Home" in Ohio to keep Mom company. She met up with my childhood friend from 3rd grade who was still single and began traveling together until he passed in 2021. Now she's back full timing in her 3rd motorhome along with her cat, Diego.

We have to include those furry travel companions we love!



Gina with Bentley, Peggy with Chewie and Roux, Fay with JoJo, Brenda with Hudson, and Maria with Kloe



Jon and Nancy with Sadie



Marshlyn and Mike with Bo Jangles and McKenzie and Terry with Dumpster and Mr. Bud

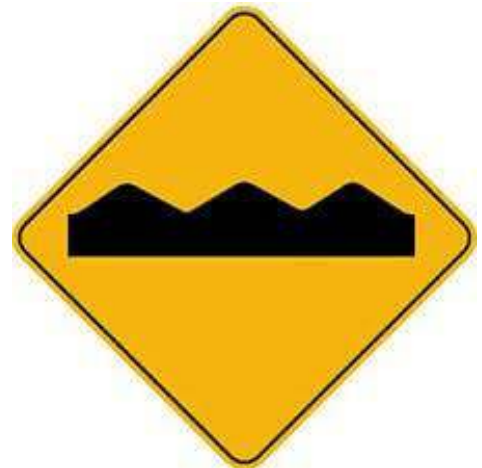
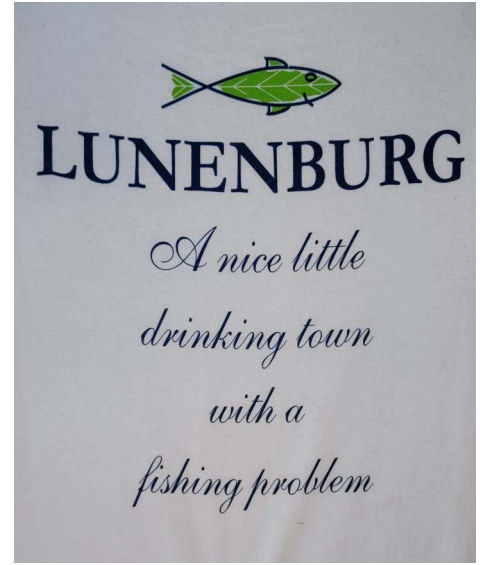


Bob and Carol with Hank



Kitty with Diego

*Signs we don't usually see in the lower 48
or they just made us laugh on our journey!!*



Sometimes, you feel like a nut!!!! Sometimes you don't.

