

2010 Canadian East Coast Driving Trip by: Mary Beth Hess; additional comments, formatting, editing, and photographs by Richard L. Hess ©2010 ME/RL Hess

Welcome to our trip log. Mary Beth took many notes during the trip. Richard has added some notes and cross-checked the mileage information based on the odometer and the GPS logs. With two sources of mileage data, we really don't know how long the trip was! Our odometer said 6562 miles; the GPS trip computer said 6668 miles; and the GPS logs add up to 6731 miles. The best reconstruction of each day from GPS logs and auto odometer, and as shown below for each day is 6912 miles, counting over-water distance on ferries and sailing excursions. When asked, I often round it off to 6666 miles, or almost 11,000 km. We had a great time and had a wonderful opportunity to experience the Canadian Maritime Provinces at an in-depth level. This trip stretched over 40 days and 39 nights.

June 29 Tuesday Drive to Quebec City

504 mi

Lv: 8:40

Ar: 20:00



This was a long and tiring drive after a tiring time of end-of-school-year activities and packing. To top it off, we were stuck in about three hours of traffic jams in Montreal. Mary Beth drove the last hour or so while Richard slept—the only major driving she did on the trip and Richard thanks her for it. Here are our departure pictures on July 2nd. We are with Sally on the left and with Louis below. Thanks for the wonderful hospitality! Sally is Mary Beth's cousin.



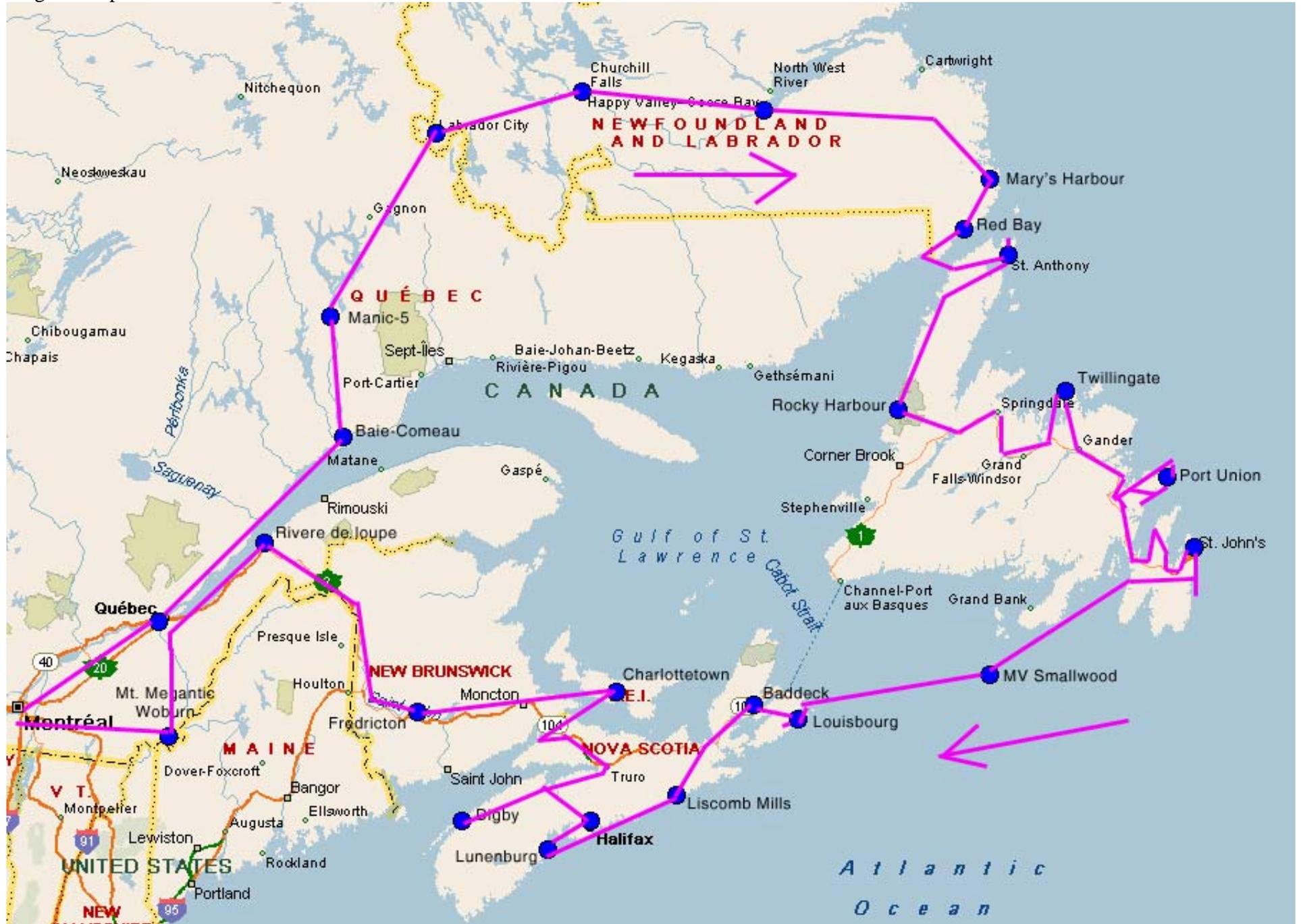
Our trip map is on the following page.

GPS Log of the trip



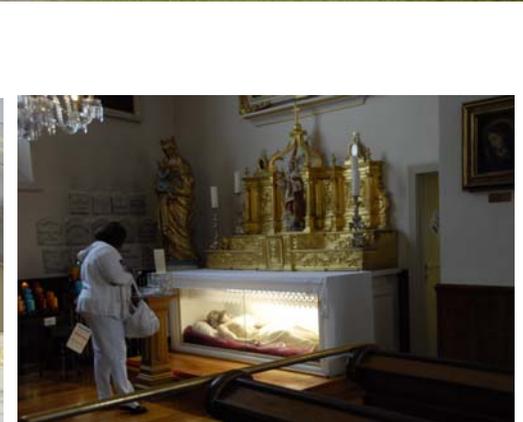
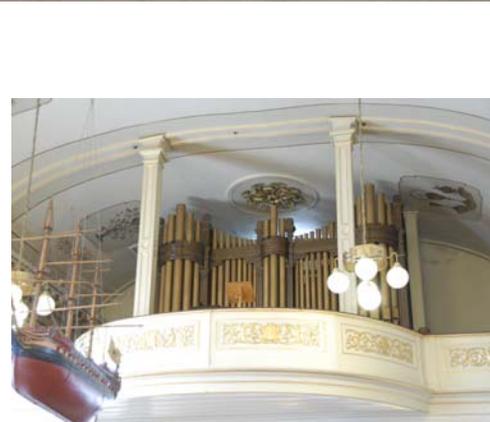
We did travel across the Cabot Strait, but it ended up being on the MV Leif Ericson, a slower and smaller ship than the MV Smallwood which was out of commission for repairs.

Original Trip Overview





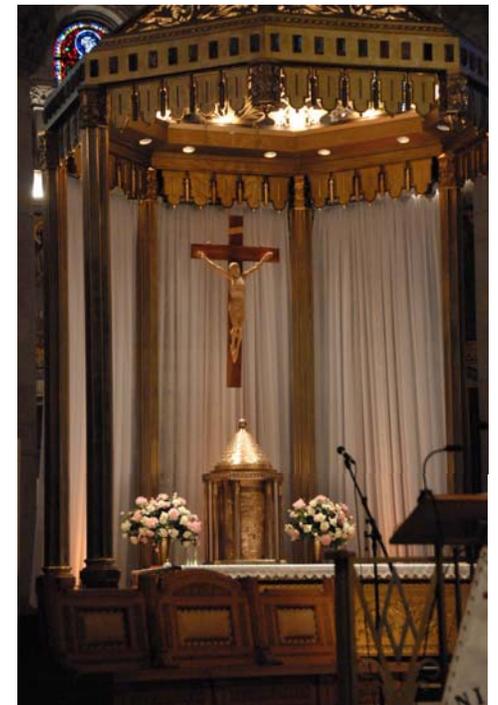
We left Sally and Louis to work—Louis is like Richard—and toured old town Quebec, including the Church of the Victories. Richard was enchanted by Louis’s home being near the longest cantilever bridge span in the world, the Quebec Bridge.





Another work day for Louis so we got out of their hair in the afternoon—he had a report due soon. We went out to Ste Anne de Beaupre and were once again impressed with the church (Mary Beth and Richard had each been there separately many years ago). We stayed for an afternoon service.

It was a clear day on Friday as we drove past Ste Anne a second time so we stopped for some exterior photos.





The drive up the north shore of the St. Lawrence River/Gulf of St. Lawrence was quite beautiful. It is an area that deserves additional exploration on its own. The Saguenay fiord is amazing.

There is a free ferry between Tadoussac–Baie-Sainte-Catherine that crosses the mouth of the fiord, which is part of route 138. The crossing takes about ten minutes (or a wee bit longer waiting for the next boat) and is about 1.6 km.

Someday, we are told, Route 138 will run all the way to Blanc Sablon, connecting to the Trans-Labrador highway.

We stayed in the Auberge le petit château in Baie Comeau.





The drive was short, but we took a tour of Manic Cinq hydroelectric project in the afternoon. There are two powerhouses producing a total maximum of 2,592 MW. Note the car and the school bus on top of the dam.

The Daniel-Johnson Dam is 214 m (702 ft) tall and 1,312 m (4,304 ft) long. The buttresses of the centre arch are 160 m (530 ft) apart while the others are about 76 m (250 ft) apart. We stayed in the Energy Motel—one of the better trailer-based motels we've seen.





At km. 231 about 9:30 a.m. we saw a black bear on Rte. 389.

We drove through Gagnon, the abandoned town. The boulevard and sidewalks remain along Rte. 389. You can see the curb cuts and driveways also, but the town is very overgrown with vegetation.

Around km. 485, we saw another bear and the beginning of many railroad crossings. At km. 530 we had to stop at a crossing while Cartier train hauling coal heading to Trois Rivières. We had a late lunch at McDonald's in Labrador City, although it was not as late as the clocks said, as Labrador City is in Atlantic Time, and hour later than Eastern time.

The photo is of one of the iron ore mines in Fernie, Quebec, just west of Labrador City. We stayed at the Two Seasons Inn which was fine. We wonder what the two seasons are... winter and construction, perhaps?





We had to stop for the QNS&L train just as we left Labrador City. There were 240 cars with 3 engines, 2 being in the front and one engine in the middle. Each car had 140 tonnes, therefore 33,600 tonnes of iron ore in total.

We ate lunch in the car so we could make it to Churchill Falls in time for our 1:30 p.m. tour of the power plant. This fully underground power plant can produce up to 5,500 MW of electricity from its 11 generators. The main generator hall is seen at the left.

The town of Churchill Falls is mainly in one building – the hotel, pool, bank, grocery store, library, etc. We were the only ones on the tour and were picked up at the hotel. After going through a pleasant security, we had a fabulous tour. There were lots of black flies. The boys swam in the pool before bed.





We saw a bear 91 GPS miles out of Goose Bay @ 10:30 a.m. The weather was a grey sky with some drizzle. We saw a big dump truck dump BIG rocks along the road edge, a U-haul truck heading to Churchill Falls and a bear in the middle of the road at km. 500 road marker.

We stayed at the Royal Inn and Suites which was fine.





We lost another half hour today as the coastal areas of Labrador are on Newfoundland Time, 1:30 later than Eastern Time.

There was very little traffic. It was VERY foggy for the first 40 km or so with drizzle, and the road was quite muddy.

There was no civilization except work camps between Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Port Hope Simpson (where we arrived after about 6.5 hours of driving). Most of this was the “new” road which had just opened (not finished, mind you) in late December 2009.

At a rest stop in PHS, we bought a stone seal and a book.

We did not see any animals today even after driving to the dump after dinner! Between PHS and Mary's Harbour, we saw many sleds and even some skidoos along the sides of the road apparently waiting for winter to bring out logs for fuel.



We had a delicious seafood dinner at the River Lodge Hotel, all having something different – salmon, scallops, crab and cod. Robert was even able to eat everything!!! Here we “osed” (hosed) off one layer of dirt off our suburban at a Fish Plant (with permission of the manager)—especially the tires as stones and dirt were constantly getting in the wheels and making noise like a flat tire. The poor Suburban had changed colour from grey to tan!



We had mostly blue sky after 10:10 a.m. We saw snow in the road cut near Mary's Harbour 1,000 ft. elevation. No animals seen today. We stopped for a landscape picture and saw several sleds again and one skidoo. Elevation and cloud decreased some driving visibility.

We toured two fascinating museum buildings, run by Parks Canada. The large skeleton fragment is the flipper of a Right Whale.

We bought our Parks pass here and ate lunch at the only restaurant.



At 3 p.m. we took a boat/walking tour on Saddle Island where we saw lots of gulls, many sea shells on the island that the gulls had dropped and we saw two unhatched seagull eggs, as well as a picturesque wreck of an old freighter.



The walk was one mile, with great weather and there was one of the better icebergs we saw on the trip not too far offshore. We stayed at the very nice Basinview Bed and Breakfast which had a great waterfront view. The husband had been working on the roads, and the wife/owner was awaiting his return after being away for a while. The boys could watch TV in the living room, and Richard spent time with a man we met on our walk regarding pictures from his camera.



We had driven 2019 miles so far on this trip as we leave our B&B. The weather was VERY foggy unfortunately, so we did not visit the lighthouse and Labrador Straits Museum, plus didn't want to spend more money here in this weather. We took our time driving to Blanc Sablon where we had lunch at the ferry terminal. The ferry ride between Blanc Sablon and St. Barb was very foggy and rough. Michael walked around a lot inside, while Richard took time not to be seasick and a little nap. We sat at a table at the front windows where Richard used his GPS to track where we were going. *The ferry mileage is included in the total for today, even though the Suburban's engine was shut off.

The Lighthouse Cottages were just what we needed with kitchen and laundry machines in our suite, but R&M had to share a pull-out couch. Dinner at the Lighthouse Restaurant (so so seafood) and it was very windy after dinner.

We could see the deck of the ferry, but not much more. We're glad they had RADAR! Later, spray from some of the waves drenched the window this was taken through.



It was cold and foggy and unfortunately foggy while we were on our whale and iceberg cruise 9:00 – 12:00. On the cruise, we saw just a few puffins and one or two minke whales, but the cove was even too foggy to see much of anything, The foghorn and GPS were both effective in their own ways.

The photo at left is a composite of one of the sequences of a minke whale from this cruise.

Lunch at Tim Horton's where we discovered it was better than other fast food, cheaper and Robert could eat it! We toured the Grenfell Museum and Grenfell's home in the afternoon.





We had a beautiful clear day to visit L'anse aux Meadows first, taking a guided walking tour at 10 a.m. Most of the original site has been re-buried to protect it. What is there is a total reconstruction. It was very windy. Although this was the "staid" site compared to Norstead, there were still opportunities for our sons to pose as ferocious Viking warriors.

We had to journey to St. John's to see the Viking shirt pin that convinced researchers this was a genuine Viking site. Here it is in proper context:



We had lunch at the Norseman at L'anse aux Meadows' Restaurant in "town" where we had good seafood – crab legs, caribou burger, salmon and shrimp pizza and scallop salad. A bus tour arrived while we were there. Near the end of our lunch, one of the interpreters from L'anse aux Meadows arrived to sing for us with his guitar – some fun and east coast music.



After lunch, we visited the Norstead Viking Village, a living history site with many great interpreters, many “shows”, puppets, sword-fighting, a boat (Snorri) where Billy the crazy Viking had great stories to tell, wood carving, and cooking. They really tried to pull visitors into the time of their village, so since we had one son, we could sell the other to them as they could use nice strong men. This was non-government run to it could be fun and more relaxed. We drove around a few undriven roads. We saw a female moose near a temporary visitor center at L’anse aux Meadows. Dinner at Tim Horton’s.





We stopped to see the SS Ethie which was wrecked in a fierce storm on December 11, 1919 down below on the beach. Part of the boilers and the engine block remain. The boys walked down to explore the area while Mom and Dad viewed from above and took pictures. The restaurant was busy at Rocky Harbour, the first time a restaurant had been busy on this trip, and the food was not great. We saw one shedding female moose cross the highway.

We left St. Anthony's later than expected since Robert woke up with a very sore neck and in great pain after another's night sleep on the sofa bed. We gave him lots of Motrin and even went to the hospital to see if they could do anything for him but they could not see him until 2 or 3 p.m., so we left. Car bumps hurt.

This was generally a wet and gloomy day with temps at 25 degrees celsius. We couldn't see far off shore. The road sometimes was so wet with water in tire tracks that it was hard to drive without sliding. There were some foggy road patches and we did not stop at Port au Choix due to the weather. We had lunch at Maynard's in Torrent River and then saw the Salmon Interpretation Center – good to know about, but not great (salmon ladder and an inside display).



We found the Meeting Hill Cottages in Rocky Harbour quite pleasant.



It was a beautiful day, 28 degrees, as we drove around to the Gros Morne Visitor Center, Bonne Bay Marine Station. Here we had a great guided tour with a graduate of Marine Biology where we were able to touch fish and see good displays. We drove to Woody Point for a late lunch at the Old Loft Restaurant where we hoped to see whales on the South Arm as we sat outside to eat. Again, we had no luck seeing water animals, but we had good American food with a great view. We toured the Discovery Center where we saw a film, then drove to Trout River for another great viewing area. We tried to have dinner at the Lobster Cove Lighthouse, but it was closed, so we at least took more pictures of the water, and we drove back to Rocky Harbour, no great food places here though.

No animals were seen today, except for the fish species at Bonne Bay Marine Station (including a bisexual lobster). However, we did see a horse in a back yard between Rocky Harbour and Woody Point and a cow in a back yard at Woody Point!

Robert's neck is much better today, just slightly stiff. So far, 2 moose and 4 bear have been spotted as well as one or two minke whales.



July 14 Wednesday Rocky Harbour to Twillingate

280 mi

Lv: 8:45

Ar: 15:30



It was 19 degrees and cloudy when we left. We saw one brown rabbit. Lunch at McDonald's in Grand Falls – Windsor. We purchased a new HP laptop at Walmart here as Richard's hard drive had failed in Rocky Harbour.

We took the 4 p.m. boat cruise today instead of waiting until tomorrow at 1 p.m. since the weather is so good today. However, it was raining by the time we got back at 6 p.m. We saw wonderful scenery even though there were no icebergs or whales. Another great seafood dinner was had at another Motel Restaurant in Twillingate. Our motel room at Kelsie's Inn was hot even with the ceiling fan on. We were all tired. Since we had seen everything here, we didn't want to stay another day, so we planned to leave for Port Union the next day. Richard stayed up a bit configuring the new computer.

July 15 Thursday Twillingate to Port Union

263 mi

Lv: 9:10

Ar: 15:30



Ryan Premises House

We arrived in Gander @ 11 a.m. We had a late breakfast/early lunch at Tim Horton's. Here we toured the North Atlantic Aviation Museum in Gander. We left Gander at 12:30 p.m., 12 degrees.

We were supposed to stay in Twillingate July 15, but due to no icebergs or animals or other attractions, we added another night at Port Union. We toured Ryan Premises at Bonavista where it was very windy. We drove around a little and drove through the Dungeon Provincial Park on the way to dinner at Nanny Hayley's Root Cellar Kitchen, Elliston. We arrived at Captain Blackmore's Heritage Manor. "Tea" was at 9 p.m. with squares, fruit and drinks. Shelly and Garry Blackmore were fabulous hosts. Robert and Michael were treated to their own room with two single beds at no extra charge. Robert said it was "insanely comfortable at Blackmore's Heritage Manor". We felt the Matthew Legacy, the ship, was too expensive to tour (a family of four with lots of other expenses on this trip), so we just saw the outside of it.



We had a wonderful full hot breakfast included with our Bed and Breakfast cost. At Cape Bonavista Lighthouse, we saw LOTS of puffins on nearby rocks, toured the lighthouse and had lunch in another town at Two Whales restaurant. We then toured the “Random Passage” location where two TV shows had been filmed. The tour guide was excellent, telling us many stories. It was very windy, and the walk in and out and within the set was very tiring. Mary Beth complained first, but in the end, Mary Beth got the car for Richard and picked him up. We drove through Trinity and other small towns. The roads were broken and narrow and windy. Dinner was at a half-decent Motel in Port Union. The owner used to work at Magna in Aurora when he lived in Oshawa.



Bonavista Light (above), Random Passage (below)





We saw one moose a half an hour out of Port Union. Around 10 a.m. we had a guided tour of the Port Union factory (the only union built town in North America). In Heart’s Content, we visited the Telegraph Station, the North American end of the first Transatlantic telegraph cable. Lots of machinery is still there. We made a short stop at the SS Kyle, the Spirit of Harbour Grace (below with Amelia Earhart statue) and Bay Roberts. We had dinner at Clancy’s Restaurant in the Comfort Inn – prime rib, pizza and chicken burger. We had good food and a good room, despite construction.

Port Union (above), SS Kyle (below)



Hearts Content early telegraph equipment replica and cables from the first Transatlantic telegraph



Hearts Content Cable Station Building and original cables as they enter the water



July 18

Sunday

St. John's

74 mi



Mary Beth got up before 9 a.m. to get our Continental Breakfast and do laundry. Richard and Robert slept until after 10 a.m. We tried to leave our room at 11:20 a.m., but Mary Beth remembered the hall door was not locking properly to our room, so we had to back to check. So, we didn't really leave the motel until 11:40 a.m.

Today was supposed to be on the "better" weather days so we drove down the coast to Bay Bulls, Cape Spear (the eastern most point in North America—see GPS photo) and Witless Bay, but it was still too foggy to see much. We found a nice B&B for lunch, then toured the Johnson Geological Center (OK, but no real new information for us) and Signal Hill. The weather was better now. Dinner was at Clancy's again.



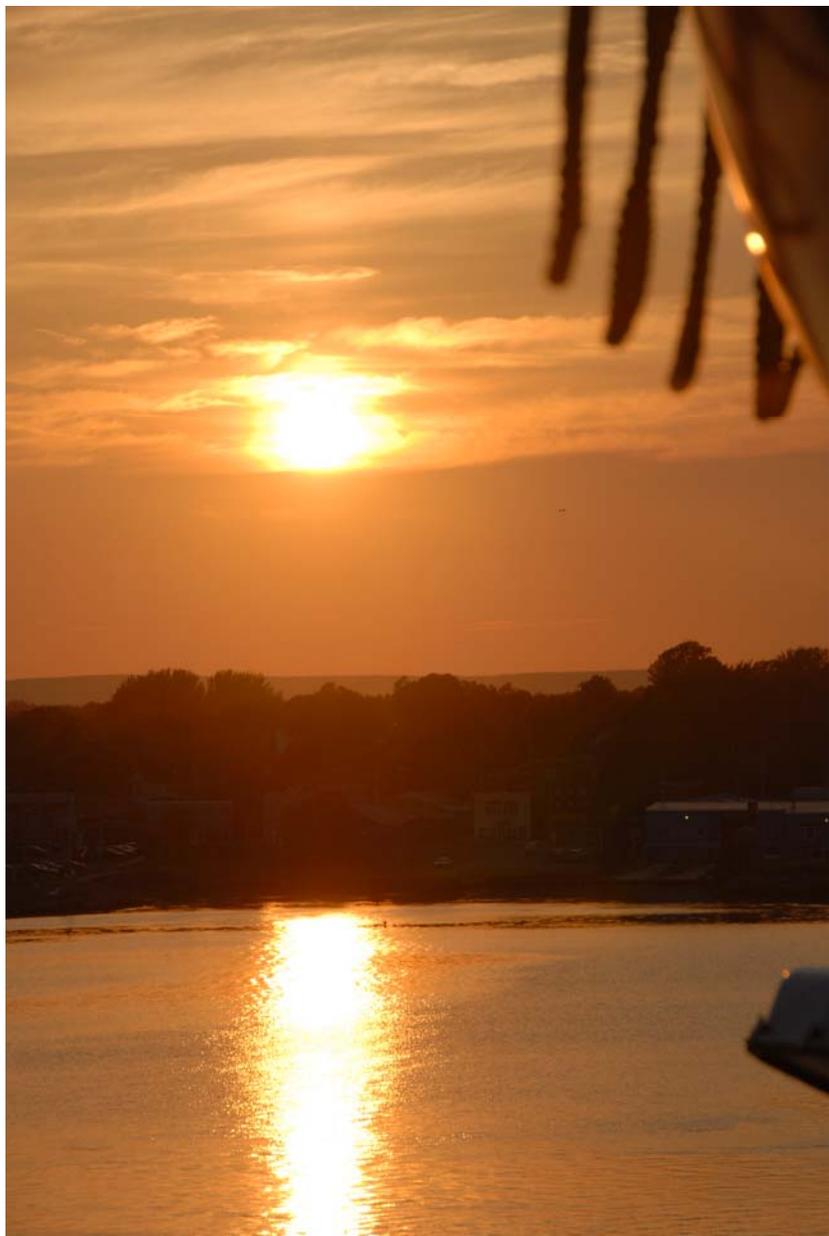
Richard got up to get our Continental Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. since it is only served from 4 – 8 a.m.! Mary Beth got up at 9 a.m., and the others at 9:45 a.m. After lunch at Tim Horton's we toured "The Rooms" museum – GREAT! (see photo in L'anse aux meadows section, above) The galleries, museum and archives are here. We arrived at the Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist for the 4 p.m. service with "Julia" and the Rector. Julia then gave us a detailed tour of the cathedral. We had dinner in downtown St. John's at a sushi restaurant – Sun Sushi – delicious! We returned to the Comfort Inn for the evening. Below is one of the views from the public spaces in The Rooms—could this be The Rooms with a view?



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July 20-21 Tuesday- St. John's, Ferry, Louisbourg
 Wednesday

456 mi incl. Lv: 12:40 Ar: 22:00
ferry Tuesday Wednesday



We left the Comfort Inn at 12:40 Tuesday, after lunch at Tim Horton's. It was 27 °C! We were about to embark on a 456 mile adventure: 277 driving miles and 179 ferry miles that would take (with waiting) almost 32 hours!

We had been notified a couple of days earlier that there was a problem with our original ferry and that we would be leaving much later. We arrived at 4 p.m. at the Ferry Terminal on a foggy day. To fill in time, we visited the Castle Hill National Historic Site visitor center and a small museum/park where we got our last Newfoundland souvenirs.

We had dinner at a Chinese restaurant in Placentia before getting back to the ferry terminal at 19:00. We drove through the checkpoints with our passports, and sat in the car to sleep, etc. We walked into the terminal a few times to use the washrooms and use up some time. The Ferry arrived at 23:30. (Lief Ericson). The unloading and reloading of box transports took until 1:00 or so. Our four-berth cabin was quite nice. We definitely felt the ferry sway.

Mary Beth got up at 11:00 on Wednesday morning. MB and Michael went looking for food. Lunch cafeteria opened at noon where we ate a chicken dinner. By the time we got back to the cabin, Robert was up, showered and dressed, so Robert went to the cafeteria for the same lunch. Richard stayed lying down on the bunk bed and snacked in the cabin all day. Mary Beth and the boys watched TV, played cards, had dinner and kept busy in the lounge area. We were glad not to be there all the time since it was smelly (fumes), noisy (fog horn and chair releases). The ferry arrived at 21:15. We drove to Louisbourg in the dark, where we had a very nice, newish room with a kitchenette and 2Q beds. We saw the moon over the ocean. The very nice owners made Richard soup and a sandwich at about 22:00 since he had just snacked all day.

We arrived in North Sydney at sunset—it was definitely the best part of the day!



After a wonderful full breakfast at our motel, we toured the Fortress of Louisbourg. We saw the visitor center first before being bussed to the fortress where costumed guides led the way in 1744 language. It started to rain by 10:15. We were not prepared so MB bought an umbrella. We saw a military demo at 10:45 and saw most of the insides of all buildings, so we were able to leave just after noon. It was pouring by then. We visited the Marconi Museum which was small, but a good center. We arrived at Harry (85 ½) and Wilma Huntington's at 16:00. Harry is our neighbour Hazel McPhee's father. They were wonderful, welcoming people. We had a great turkey dinner with pies. Harry's son and female friend were there, as well as their grandson and a German visitor. We had a good time and left at 19:30 so we could get to Baddeck before it was totally dark. The Silver Dart Lodge was very nice. Richard had stayed there in 1969 and liked it.





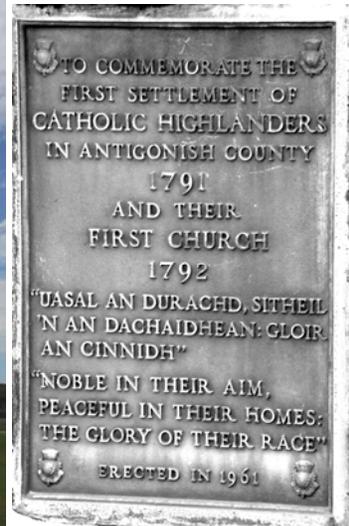
Mary Beth (right) calmly looking out as we heel over a bit with the wind—more on that later!

Beautiful weather. We got up at 8:30 a.m. and had bagels in the room. The *Amoeba* Cruise was at 11 a.m. (a sailboat in Bras d'Or Lake – saltwater from the ocean). What a great experience! We had lunch at the Yellow Cello where the captain's daughter worked. We toured the Bell Museum after lunch and had dinner at the Silver Dart Restaurant, then went to a Ceilidh (Kay-Lee, concert). Dawn and Margie Beaton were fabulous fiddlers and dancers. Margie improvises on the piano while both stomp their feet too! We had front-row seats so we could see everything.



Promotional photo courtesy of www.dawnandmargie.com





Beautiful weather. We visited the Arisaig Lighthouse and wharf and the geographic area of 450 million years ago. This was a good history/geography lesson, but overall, not too exciting. We had lunch in Antigonish (A&W and Subway), the nice town where Dawn Leger is from and larger than MB thought! There is a large Roman Catholic university here. Between 14:15 and 16:45, we were at the Sherbrooke Museum where we walked through the 1860s to the 1890's town which was similar to Black Creek Pioneer Village, but not as "in-depth". We purchased our Nova Scotia park pass here. The sawmill was very interesting at the end. Liscombe Lodge had mixed up our reservation, but had a room for us anyway. Dinner was at the lodge. Robert and Michael were disappointed they couldn't canoe or kayak (because of their parents). There were only a few TV channels here. It was 31 °C after the Sherbrooke Museum!





The day was spent driving along coastal communities that were much more economically thriving than up north. We stopped at the Shearwater Aviation Museum in Dartmouth. We had dinner at Jim Lindner's "barn" (spa, video room, huge fireplace, bathroom, large living room, and kitchen). Patrick was there, his supervisor/helper at St. Mark's church in Middle LaHave which he is restoring into a music/art venue. The B&B was OK, but "old". Bill Barrett was the divorced owner, a nice man on his own. Patrick boards there also. Breakfasts were good, but a little too spicy.



We left the B&B @ 10:20 a.m. on a beautiful day. The Suburban's ABS light came on. We drove to Jim Lindner's church after checking out beaches and the "ovens" (sea caves) near our B&B. We also watched the cable ferry pull itself across the LaHave River. Jim recommended a mechanic since there was still a noise even with the engine turned off (South Cove Auto Repair, Charlie). Light lunch at Tim Horton's before spending the afternoon at the wharf. The Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic at the Wharf had films about lobsters, the bay, and demonstrations of shucking scallops, launching a sailboat, touring the dock boats and had many good displays inside. We had dinner at 5 p.m. at the Salt Shaker before our 6:30 p.m. sailing on the *Eastern Star* sailboat. One woman VERY upset about the deep swaying of the sides of the boat. We did get the deck wet heeling over in the wind. The sailing cruise was about 10 of the 43 miles logged for the day.



St. Mark's Place, Middle LaHave



Barrett's and "The Ovens" from the *Evening Star*



Mary Beth on the *Evening Star* and Downtown Lunenburg as we returned.



We had another beautiful day for touring. We stopped at Mahone Bay where three churches are in a row across the street from the Bay. Here we watched 20 or so ducks swim together in a pond. We had a beautiful drive mostly along the coast and arrived at Peggy's Cove at 13:30. The landscape drastically changed to large rocks and short evergreens when we were almost there. We ate lunch here – very crowded and touristy. We didn't walk all the way to the lighthouse, but stopped to take a pix at the small harbour. Near Halifax, we stopped at Ferguson's Cove (drive-in parking lot to see the remains of cannons). We drove by Lynn McIntyre's old home on Purcell's Cove Road which was not on the waterfront, but up a hill beside an abandoned(?) Anglican (nice stone) church with a cemetery behind. It took a while to get through downtown Halifax at rush hour to cross the bridge to get to the Best Western in Dartmouth. Dinner was at the hotel restaurant at 18:30, and Michael swam in the pool later.





Since it had been predicted for a beautiful weather day, we decided to do much of our sightseeing today even though we were tired. We left the Best Western at 9:10, finding traffic to be better than last night, but found it hard driving in downtown Halifax. We arrived at Pier

21 by 9:40, starting with the film on Immigration. Great displays! It was right beside the Cunard Terminal. Mary Beth had our papers stamped by Immigration.



We arrived at the Citadel by 11:30 a.m. so that we could see the noon firing of the cannon. We watched the Royal Artillery perform and saw the huge building where gun powder barrels were stored.



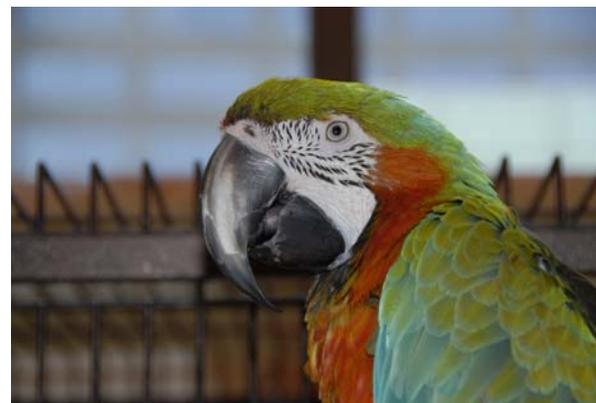
By 12:45, we were at the Maritime Museum and found a quick lunch so we could go on the 14:00 tour on the Ferry between Halifax and Dartmouth that was part of the museum experience.



Afterwards, we viewed displays and films within the museum and the exterior boat. The museum included the Halifax Explosion, The Titanic, and Merlin the talking parrot! This was another wonderful museum.



Parking was limited at this museum, but we got a spot after circling around. We were told that a cruise ship would be in tomorrow, so today was a good day to be sightseeing! We were tired, but this was a very worthwhile day! We had dinner at Burger King and spent the evening in our room – except Mary Beth did 3 loads of laundry!



We crammed everything in today since tomorrow was supposed to be rainy.



We had a “day off”. Michael and Mary Beth went to breakfast before it closed at 9:00. Michael swam in the pool before lunch at Wendy’s. At 12:25, we left for the Aviation Museum of the Atlantic, a few miles away, but it turned out to be one of the better ones we have seen (again, volunteer run)! We were back to our room by 15:30 to relax and had dinner in the hotel restaurant again – very good!



The morning was foggy, but the weather became clearer as the day progressed. Our first stop was at Fort Edward National Historic Site where only the Blockhouse remains. There were wonderful grounds with gorgeous views. Inside, there were photos and some history, but not much. It was a one-man operation.



Then on to Grand Pre where the Deportation of Acadians was VERY well depicted through a half-hour film, a lovely Information Center, “Evangeline”, the church, and BEAUTIFULLY landscaped grounds with well-maintained statues. By now, we decided that we had seen enough historic homes, and bypassed a few we had listed enroute.

We found Valleyview Provincial Park, but it was definitely not worth the drive.



At Annapolis Royal, we saw the only modern tidal power plant in North America. There was a lot of foam in the water. Michael photographed a seagull eating a crab.

There was a wonderful seafood restaurant at our hotel, The Admiral Digby – scallops and smoked salmon.

We had a great view of the water from our room, including a balcony, and had a view at the restaurant. Michael swam in the indoor pool after dinner.

This was a beautiful day – 21 °C. Before leaving town, we got gas and stopped in a few spots to see “low tide.



We drove back through Annapolis Royal to get to The Habitation at Port Royal – a lovely spot with a nice rebuilt complex from the 1930s. It was small and not overly impressive due to what we have already seen. We saw shingles and decorative wood being made. Since the Melanson Settlement was near, we drove in but did not take the walking trail.

Digby Harbour (left), The Habitation (above), Sequence of tide going out at the ferry terminal from Friday night (below).

We drove through Annapolis Royal hoping to go to Fort Anne, but the town was VERY busy with a Farmer’s Market and tourists, so we didn’t stop. We decided to return to Digby Tim Horton’s and then drive on Hwy. 27 (southwest) hoping to see whales.



We drove to East Ferry where one has to pay to cross to continue to Long Island and Brier Island (St. Mary’s Bay). Since we hadn’t been successful, we drove back via Trout Cove which is right on the Bay of Fundy. Again, we had no luck in seeing sea life.

We returned just in time to see the Ferry leaving for St. John, NB. Dinner was at our Inn again, the Admiralty Room. Michael swam after dinner.





This day should have been split in two, but we had schedule conflicts that prevented that. Nice weather today but only 13 °C. We were up for sunrise! It was a long drive from Digby through the Rawdon Hills to our first stop, the Anne Murray Centre in Springhill. We had lunch at Tim Hortons. The Anne Murray Centre was quite well done, although cramped, and chock full of her memorabilia including many gold records!



We did not have enough time at Joggins Archeological Site where there was a wonderful inside display with many guides to talk with. There was a beach where you could wander down to see fossils, but we did not plan enough time to visit this great place. Robert was very upset we couldn't stay longer as we raced to see the Tidal Bore at 15:21. Robert and Michael were not impressed with it as it really only looked like a small wave of water rolling in. Richard thinks that the Tidal **Bore** is aptly named—he had the same experience in his 1969 trip with his parents, near Truro.

Bore-ing!



Next, we had a great two-hour private tour of the Sackville CBC transmitting station. Since it was Sunday, he was there by himself. The photo is of one of the first transmitters, retained in part as a museum piece. We thought of having dinner at Marshland's Inn, Sackville at 18:30, but Mary Beth decided it was too formal, would take too long and she really wanted to go over Confederation Bridge while it was still daylight.

After we crossed the bridge, it was a one-hour drive to our Econo-Lodge. Our room was fine, but the rest of the motel was just "so-so". We had air conditioning and a fridge! The island is beautifully landscaped and the red soil makes it even more attractive. We found a Burger King and had dinner.

A BEAUTIFUL CLEAR day! We toured Cavendish Green Gables House, buildings and grounds. The flower we have been seeing is the wild rose. We saw the film intro at this National Historic Site. View below is from the Haunted Wood.



This was a great day for driving and viewing PEI National Park – crisp, clear views. Mary Beth, Robert and Michael walked down brief rock area to touch the water. Lots of sand dunes.



We had lunch at Fisherman's Wharf in Rustico where we each had a 1 lb. lobster and a roll - \$18.00 each. This restaurant had been highly recommended to us by Bill Woods, an islander, whom we will see the next day. The all you can eat buffet just seemed like too much food and too pricey for four people.

We checked out Gaudreau Fine Woodworking Artisans Shop, but the Artist was not working today. We went back to the Econo Lodge for a while, dinner at East Side Mario's, then on to Peake's Wharf to see the sites there downtown Charlottetown and have Cow's famous ice cream cones. Robert had strawberry sorbet. A music group was playing in the park. It was a beautiful evening to be out. Mary Beth browsed the shops. We saw the hippo bus drive into the Bay and were back in our room by 21:30.



A nice day, but not quite as clear as yesterday was. We visited Province House, a National Historic Site, in downtown Charlottetown, considered the birthplace of Confederation. The film at the beginning was WELL done and the building was well preserved. We tried to see the Anglican cathedral, but it was closed.

We paid to see Founder's Hall where the Visitor Center was as well. We were disappointed here since it was the same info about Canada that Province House had, only to include a little more info concerning individual provinces. This exhibit was too modern and somewhat corny with news reports on TV. We wore Sennheiser IR headsets as we walked through and the coverage was spotty.

We walked a little to get to a Sushi restaurant, and on the way there, we listened to the end of a musical teen show outside that was about PEI and Canada. All stores have "Annie" souvenirs. Downtown, there is an Anne of Green Gables store and an Anne of Green Gables Chocolate Store where chocolate potato chips were made.

We drove 15 minutes to visit Bill Woods and his wife, Joan. Bill was the founder of J-Mar in Toronto and is the father of Liz Woods, a Toronto audio equipment dealer.

We left at 16:15 to take the scenic drive to Summerside. We arrived at 17:30, had dinner at Wendy's, drove around briefly, but the town is not very big! We were in the theater by 19:00. We enjoyed the wonderful musical Anne and Gilbert by 3 composers including Nancy White. It was too bad that the audience was only 2/3 full. It is expensive for families. The show was entertaining, funny and tear jerking which ran until 22:00 with one intermission. It took about an hour to drive back to Charlottetown in the dark. Another great day!!!

August 4 Wednesday Charlottetown to Fredericton

215 mi

Lv: 10:25

Ar: 17:00

We said “good-bye” to PEI on a cloudy day. There was more fog at the end of the bridge in Nova Scotia than in PEI. We drove to Fredericton and arrived at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery at 15:15. We saw china from the 1760s, tapestries, furniture, many valuable paintings, and old and new canoes of which we saw the video of how native Americans found their grandfather’s and then reproduced one of their own.

It was amazing the number of pieces in this art collection. The Ramada was very nice with an indoor pool area similar to Willow Valley Resort in Pennsylvania – pool, pool tables, pond, arcade area, bar and places to sit. We enjoyed a good dinner at the Ramada Restaurant. Free popcorn in the lobby.

August 5 Thursday Fredericton to Rivière-du-Loup

232 mi

Lv: 9:35

Ar: 18:00



Today was our hottest day on the trip so far – up to 32 °C at 17:00. We toured King’s Landing in hot, humid weather – 30 °C. White cloud covered the sky when we left this morning, but the day turned sunny and we didn’t get rained on. King’s Landing is a private, partially provincial run restored village. In each building, guides gave thorough details/stories of what they were doing, i.e., print shop, women cooking (chicken, cake), sawmill, women/men working with wool. We had lunch in the middle area at King’s Arm Inn with food of the times, i.e., salad, ploughman’s lunch, desserts, cider, lemonade and iced tea. Robert had turkey and vegetables in a flaky pastry shell, and potato pancakes and green beans. WELL DONE! Two horses and a cart brought us back to the beginning of the village. The clock once belonged to Aaron Burr, we were told.



We drove to Hartland covered Bridge and took pictures from both sides, driving through twice. There were wooden beams inside with a narrow pedestrian walkway on one side. We stopped at Grand Falls where there was not much water. We passed St. Louis-du-Ha!-Ha! approximately 50 km. South of Rivière-du-Loup and 1425 ft. in elevation. Dinner was at a Burger King in Rivière-du-Loup after we checked in at Days Inn which was small, but nice. It was too hot to use the pool. We had a fridge, continental breakfast and there were apples in the lobby. The travel time was an hour longer than shown as we lost an hour entering Quebec from New Brunswick.

August 6 Friday Rivère-du-Loup to Mont Mégantic

288 mi

Lv: 9:15

Ar: 15:40



Before we left, we went to the IGA for ginger ale and coke. It was 17 °C this morning. Upon arrival, we checked into our B&B in Woburn, the Sous un ciel étoilé, which was most delightful. The goal today was to attend the Astronomy Festival at Mont Mégantic. We had supper at a small café in the Park and then attended a large-scale slideshow with commentary in French and images mostly from the Hubble Space

Telescope. The imagery was outstanding. We then boarded school busses and had the opportunity to look through several small telescopes as well as the 24-inch popular observatory (above) and the 63-inch Astronomical Observatory. On the 63-inch, the Dumbell Nebula filled the viewfinder. It was most exciting. The most amazing part of this visit was seeing the Milky Way (left) photographed with my 35 mm f/2.0 lens on my Nikon D200. This is the true meaning of being in a dark-sky preserve. Who knew there were that many stars!

August 7 Saturday Mont Mégantic to home

504 mi

Lv: 10:00

Ar: 19:30

We took Rte. 30/132 at the south end of Montreal to get through faster. We crossed the river near Salaberry de Valleyfield. We had lunch in Lancaster, Ontario at 13:50. We arrived home at 19:30 after having dinner at Wendy's in Aurora.

The maximum elevation recorded was 2432 ft.