

Travel Log Nova Scotia

14-07-2015

We are leaving PEI behind heading towards Halifax.

It took exactly 4000 kilometres for me to get a speeding ticket the first in the past 20 years or so. Welcome to Nova Scotia. The officer was nice to "reduce" my speed from 134 to 115 which adds to the financial statement of the trip \$233 under the category "other". We were like minutes from our destination, shucks. The good news is that I was not caught doing 160 just a few K's earlier. This is not a good day financially speaking. Earlier this morning I was charged 83 KM at a rate of 15 cents per KM for having to return to Shediac to retrieve the USB cable for the cameras which I left in the room when we checked out 2 nights ago.. Budget-Rent-A-Car must be happy.

We checked out Halifax waterfront this evening. Somebody must have known that we were coming as the Bluenose II sailed into the Halifax harbour which it has not done for the past 4 years. Impressive vessel. Don't say it's not worth a dime.



We even caught a free performance by the shanty Yarmouth fisherman.



15-07-2015

Whenever I check in on my good old friend Norm he tells me: “Old age sucks” – Welcome to the club. With mom running out of gas walking up and me straining a back and groin muscle walking down, we sure qualify. I guess that the maximum age for a road trip like this should be that of Thelma and Louise (when they made the movie).

Sitting on the bench at the Citadel waiting for the change of guards (sorry, guard) This is not Buckingham palace. I was interviewed for (local, I guess) TV while on the Bluenose II. I was asked if I thought that the exorbitant cost of the Bluenose II was worth it? What do you think?



Halifax, early afternoon. Turkish Delight. It’s not what you think but delightful nevertheless, 1453 Spring Garden St. The CIAC (Tarator in Bulgarian) is heavenly, Even mom would admit. I call her mom even in public and people turn their head in disbelief only to say: Na! What is it about Halifax. Sitting (again) on a park bench overlooking the harbour I was approached by a stranger asking if I would mind being

interviewed for his video project. The project title is “The future of the World”. His simple question was “ What do you think will be the future of the world?” What would you have said? I hope he is not affiliated with ISIS in any way.



As immigrants to Canada and, just to remind my children that they too are immigrants we finished our tour of Halifax at the Canadian Immigration Museum on Pier21. A must see for us. This was the port of entry for millions of immigrants from the 1920 through 1970. Canada was not always kind to immigrants or allowing immigration to Canada .Remember Jewish Holocaust survivors turned back - None Is Too Many, Chinese taxation and Japanese internment. But since the 1970 Multicultural Policy Canada opened its doors and its heart a whole lot more.



In 1939, this order-in-council was used to justify the government denying sanctuary to Jewish refugees from Germany on board the MS *St. Louis*. The ship was eventually forced to return to Europe resulting in many passengers dying at the hands of the Nazis. Pictured are the passengers aboard the MS *St. Louis*.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Dr. Liane Reif-Lehrer

En 1939, ce décret en conseil a donné au gouvernement une justification de ne pas offrir l'asile aux réfugiés juifs venant d'Allemagne à bord du MS *St. Louis*. Ce navire a été forcé de repartir vers l'Europe provoquant ainsi la mort d'un grand nombre de ces passagers tombés entre les mains des Nazis. Cette photo montre des passagers à bord du MS *St. Louis*.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtoisie de Dre Liane Reif-Lehrer

The Immigrant:



16-07-2015

Peggy's Cove and the scenic coastal drive to Lunenburg with a stop at Mahone Bay are worth all the publicity. The coastal drive is the prettiest we have seen in North America and that includes Northern California. These places can only be told by being there or watching the photos. We are there so you can have the photos.







How do you adjust to being 24/7 with a person who trusts nothing but her instinct and intuition, mistrusts other sources of information especially digital content and requires information to be delivered to her on her terms and in her medium? Be careful before you answer. She also posts a life time batting average of 927. The answer: it takes at least 52 years of hard work, patience and humility on which I am running low but hoping to survive the next two weeks.



By the way any illusions that we will return from this trip slim and trim owing to all the walking and hiking we were to do, will have to remain in this category: Illusions. We are doing well on the intake of calories but not as good on the out take. This is partly because both of us are on the injury list (mom's breathing and my back) but you do not get match fit playing cards in the dressing room.

17-07-2015

Nova Scotia drivers are obedient and considerate to a fault. At times it extends from the ridiculous to the sublime. Let's start with the basics: a 2-3 lane highway with little to no traffic. The left lane is a passing lane - full stop. The speed limit at times as high as 110 KMs is the speed limit- full stop. Nova Scotia drivers will yield their right of way to a driver waiting to make a left turn by stopping (at times abruptly) in the middle of the road giving the car behind little time to react. On a two lane road in Bedford traffic is jammed on the right lane and the left lane is wide open. Local drivers know that at the intersection ahead the left lane turns into a left turn only so to get back in you'll have to cut back. I am not from Nova Scotia. If Toronto drivers were to behave this way we will be still on the 401. Nova Scotia drivers are also mind readers. As soon as a pedestrian glances across the street thinking whether or not to cross the road, traffic stops: Cross Walk or not.

Cape Breton is a gem and Baddack, the home town of Alexander Graham Bell and now his descendants, is its crown jewel.





Coming into Cape Breton we saw this sign: Farmer's Daughter - Come Visit. We found out that it's not what we thought but rather a local market.



Cape Breton is a world class destination with its breath taking scenery, ocean coastal trails, rolling hills and quaint town. Cape Breton is also all about music, mainly Scottish Ceilidh. This is our first of three days in Cape Breton and we're blown away even before we start the famous Cabot Trail tomorrow. Can it get better than this?

We had Shabbat Dinner at the Lobster Suppers. It is by consensus the BEST sea food restaurant we have ever been to.



The maestro at work:



18-07-2015

We see a surprising (to us) number of Ontario license plates wherever we go. I guess we are not the only crazy ones. Is it possible that with the crumbling Canadian dollar More Canadians are spending their summer vacations touring Canada? Or is it that many GTAers decided to leave town during the PanAm games? Just asking.

Cabot Trail is a driver's heaven and a photographer's paradise. It is a long and winding road with many exciting hair pin turns and spectacular views on both sides of the road.



The play of the day was the hike to the top of Meat Cove. See for yourself. Mom is a trooper. Huffing and puffing but she made it to the top.



On Saturday afternoon we are in Chedicamp at the Doryman Tavern listening to authentic Cape Breton live music with some 300 others. The thing (only) to do in Chedicamp.



19-07-2015

Today, is "moving day" in the British Open and Cabot Trail just moved to the top of the leader board for best experience. What a way to witness nature's beauty at its most pristine. It seems that we have

planned our itinerary well as every destination seems to be as or more exciting than the previous. Or is it last impressions? Newfoundland you are being challenged.



We thought that we saw everything on the Cabot Trail and then we came to this lookout on our way to Louisbourg.



https://youtu.be/l66hvfVX_b8

Sometime today we crossed the 5000 KM mark and we have one hundred or so left before we fly to Newfoundland. How did we ever think we would drive back from NL to Toronto just to get back home. Thank goodness we rented a car which we will drop off in Sydney tomorrow.

We are spending the day (and night) in Louisbourg the most Northern town in Cape Breton known for its French Fortress where the British kicked the French derriere in two different wars in the 18th century.



We were "invited" to the, just as famous, Baggers Banquet. A fantastic lobster dinner, music with all dressed in period clothing. Once the Visa bills come due we may have to become permanent members.



20-07-2015

If in Louisbourg, NS, remember the name Cranberry Cove Inn, it's a wonderful B&B and I mean, the Bed, and the Breakfast plus the wonderful scent of the lilac tree in full bloom. Short drive to Sydney the city known for the largest fiddle: (notice our height v the fiddle)



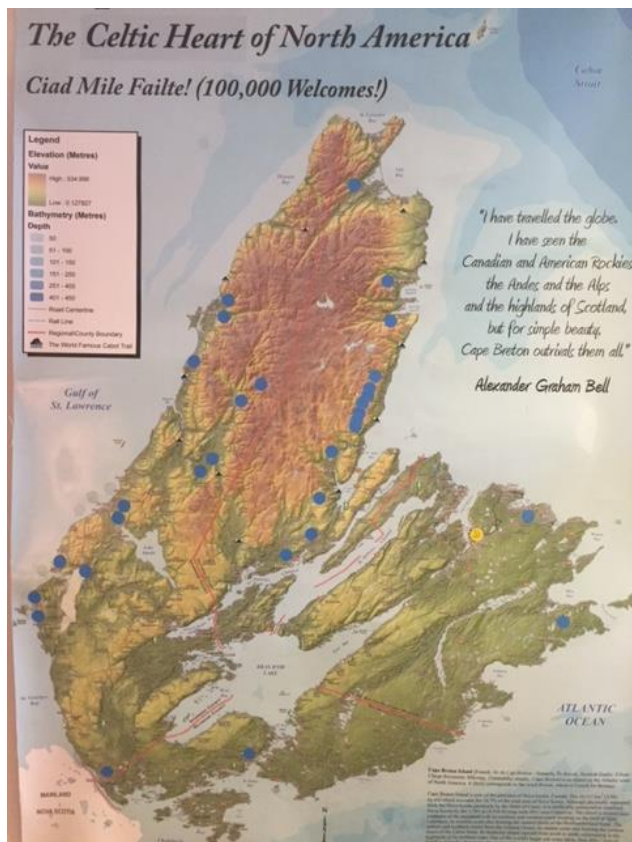
Other things to -do in Sydney:

(Intentionally Left Blank...)

By the way, we did not see any of them:



We are ready to leave Cape Breton and are endorsing warmly Alexander Graham Bell's view of Cape Breton:



21-07-2015

Today we travel to Newfoundland. We were promised by the Inn keeper in Louisbourg that Newfoundland is going to be a whole new experience and a good one at that. He said: expect a different culture, attitudes, music, people etc. Today is also a day when I relinquish my driving duties to the WestJet pilot and will resume driving duties in St. John's tomorrow morning.

Shucks, can't take sealed wine bottles in carryon luggage. Sydney, have a blast with our Quebec wines we purchased on the first day of the trip.

Guess what? Our trip has come to an abrupt end and we are headed home. The flight from Sydney to St. John's NL could not land due to a combination of bad weather and construction work on the runway. We are now in Gander of all places and will be flown back to Halifax soon where we will spend the night. We are told that conditions in SJ are not going to improve for the next 3 days so we'll likely head home tomorrow.

So far the weather cooperated fabulously. Except for one half day driving in the rain in New Brunswick it was sunny and warm every day - until this. The night is young and there could be some more surprises.

This is a good time to ask the question: Why is it that you have to have a degree in electrical engineering in order to operate the TV in hotels, motels and B&B's? And why is it completely different from place to place? And how stupid do you feel asking the reception how to turn on the TV? And who in God's name is using all the "features" on the 102 button converter? And finally, why did I not think of a start-up to bring to market the ON/OFF, CH +/- VOL +/- with a ten digit key pad?

Officially we made it to NL albeit a short stay on the runway in Gander. Today there is an Environment Canada Rain Warning for St. John's and we cannot get a flight till Thursday. We just made an executive decision: we're flying home from Halifax and promised ourselves to fly to St. John's in the next few weeks to complete our mission. Cost will be practically the same and we're truly intrigued by Newfoundland.