



A Canada 150 project

By Ron Schirlie and Sue Nicholson



It would be impossible to see all of Canada in 150 years;
but here are 150 Canadian Corners we managed to visit
in our lifetime.

Sue & Ron

Canada 150

British Columbia

1. Okanagan
2. Vancouver
3. Victoria
4. Vancouver Island
5. Long Beach
6. Kamloops
7. Revelstoke
8. Golden
9. Kootenay Mountains
10. Kootenay National Park
11. Yoho National Park
12. Atlin

Alberta

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14. Banff
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17. Drumheller
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65. Winnipeg – Assiniboine Park
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77. Thousand Islands
78. Port Hope
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83. Sault Ste. Marie
84. Manitoulin Island
85. Eliot Lake
86. Wawa
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- 89. Montreal
- 90. L'estrie
- 91. Georgeville
- 92. Stanstead
- 93. Coaticook
- 94. Owl's Head
- 95. Percé Rock
- 96. Rivière du Loup
- 97. Laurentians
- 98. Forillon Park

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- 100. Hopewell Rocks
- 101. Shediac
- 102. Bouctouche
- 103. Kouchibouguac
- 104. Miscou Island
- 105. Campbellton
- 106. Saint John River Valley
- 107. Saint John
- 108. Fredericton
- 109. Fredericton Junction
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- 112. Covered Bridges
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- 127. Prince Edward Island
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NWT

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British Columbia



Okanagan

The Okanagan Valley in the interior of B.C. is famous and popular, traditionally for cherries and fruit, but more recently for grapes and wine.

It's probably the hottest part of Canada in terms of temperature, and so unfortunately, it does include rattlesnakes.

We went there anyway.

The owner of the bed and breakfast we stayed at in Peachland, close to Kelowna, kept apologizing for the cool weather barely approaching 30 degrees Celsius, but that's the way we like it. We felt we had to explain that we were from "Winterpeg".



We toured the wineries, we took the pictures, and we acted like the tourists we were.



The area is more diverse than one can appreciate in a couple of weeks. But really, that applies to every other region of Canada as well. Life in Canada is just like the wine; we barely have enough time to sample.

Vancouver

If the weather in Vancouver was always like it is in the Spring, Canadians would all move there. Well, they would if they could afford the housing.

Because it is one impressive place to visit.

I once worked for a company that had an office overlooking Burrard Inlet. Coming from the prairie, when we visited the Vancouver office, all we could do was stare out of the window.

Having breakfast at the Pan Pacific convention center one can watch seaplanes and boats of every description, against a backdrop of mountains overlooking the water



The view of the skyline from Stanley Park is breathtaking too; but our favourite spot is the Capilano suspension bridge.



Horseshoe Bay is where the short ferry ride to Vancouver Island (to Nanaimo) departs. These cars were already waiting for the boat in 1979.

The day we took the cable car to the summit of Grouse Mountain, it was so foggy, we couldn't see a view at all; but we took pictures anyway.

Victoria

British Columbia's capital city has long been known as a retirement haven; but we visited it long before we considered retirement locations.

The picturesque harbour with the Empress Hotel and the B.C. Legislature



Butchart Gardens are favourite and famous of course; although we were disrespectful enough to dub them a little overrated...



Terminus of the Trans Canada Highway, and Fisgard Lighthouse at Esquimalt Harbour (Ft. Rodd Hill) caught our attention as well.

Vancouver Island

The ancient Douglas Fir trees in “Cathedral Grove” in the middle of Vancouver Island, dwarfed us and we’re not that small.



We watched a magnificent sunset at Qualicum Beach, which Sue will never forget or forgive me for forgetting the camera in the hotel room... .. and then eagles feasting on fish scraps in Port Hardy...



... and the Alaska cruise boats plying the inside passage from our hotel room balcony in Campbell River... and bungee jumping in Nanimo.



Long Beach

The rain forested area between Ucluelet and Tofino includes long stretches of beach, appropriately named “Long Beach”.

Huge driftwood is taken by wind and waves, and piled like match sticks.



Whether it was scouring for sand dollars or being fascinated by starfish on the beach or banana slugs in the forest, it was all new to us prairie folks.



Kamloops

When visiting our cousin Ross in Kamloops, he took us on a tour of the town, and was taken aback when the place we asked to see was the salmon statue. He had to think of how to get there because no one had ever asked him that before.



Heading east of Kamloops toward Revelstoke, will take one into the picturesque Shuswap Region. Where I believe there are some artists among the farmers...



Revelstoke

At Revelstoke, the Canadian Rockies are at their highest and mightiest.

When the Spring melt reaches the upper slopes, one can drive to the summit of Mt. Revelstoke – a drive long enough to appreciate the distance (in height). An alpine lake and meadow await at the top.



Between Revelstoke and Salmon Arm, is Craigellachie; site of the “last spike” on the railroad that united Canada from east to west in 1885.



In the town of Revelstoke, one can read the story of “Wooden Head”, which is a local attraction for some reason.

Apparently, it was carved by a construction worker on the Big Bend Highway project ; and used as a slogan to “not be a wooden head” and slow down on the dangerous road.

Golden

Our friends Heather and Bob, along with their dog, Amos, own a fabulous bed and breakfast in Golden. (One eyed Amos is a trained avalanche rescue dog.)

They took us to visit the paragliding launch site above the town and on one of the magnificent hikes in the area.



It won't come as a surprise to anyone who knows us, that we admired the pilots of the parasails without leaving the ground. It was thrilling enough just to see them walk off the cliff in front of us, and then watch them from above as they sailed down to town.

Even the mountain bike trails seemed to go straight down. (We didn't try those either.) We went back to the hot tub at the B&B and talked about it over a glass of wine.

Kootenay Mountains

The mountains of south east British Columbia are known as the Kootenays. Actual mountain ranges include parts of the Rocky, Selkirk, Purcell, and Monashee Mountains.



Bugaboo Glacier



Challenging road to the "Top of the World" Provincial Park



Through places like: Kimberley / Creston / Cranbrook / Nelson

Kootenay National Park

Kootenay National Park is on the western side of the Rockies, across the continental divide and south from Banff. Where the Radium Hot Springs are.

Sue used to accuse me of tricking her into a hike without telling her what she was getting into. The trail to Dog Lake was one such walk. I would have thought she'd say it was worth it at the end. I was wrong about that. Made use of the hiking boots though.



Stanley Glacier is also in the park, with an excellent, albeit long, hiking trail, all uphill.

My brother Gord remembers fuming and taking pictures of me walking up to “touch the glacier”, while he wisely waited at a more respectful elevation. While Sue and Gord enjoy hiking, they both thought I was nuts; at least in my younger days.



Yoho National Park

Emerald Lake, one of the gems of the Canadian Rockies, is prominent and popular among places in Yoho.

We rented a canoe to visit the other side, maybe because it was quicker than taking the hiking trail, but either way would have offered spectacular views.



Takakkaw Falls



Natural Bridge

Atlin

In the extreme north west corner of British Columbia, is an old mining town named "Atlin".

Atlin is as far north of Vancouver as Winnipeg is east from the Rocky Mountains. And as far west of Victoria as Moose Jaw is from Winnipeg (or Toronto is from Sherbrooke, Que.)

The road to Atlin comes from Yukon Territory to the north. It's a gravel road, but it's very picturesque. The altitude is rather high in spots too. Some days you can see clouds right on the road.

The road follows the Atlin River, a glacier fed river along the mountains, which feeds Atlin Lake at the town site.

It looks like a typical ghost town, except that some hardy latter day gold rush survivors still inhabit the area. They still mine for gold with bulldozers and sluices, and shovels.

The day I drove thru town with my camera, the car was swarmed by wide eyed kids, curious as to who new was driving thru.



Alberta



Waterton Lakes

Arguably our favourite of the Rocky Mountain parks, is Waterton Lakes; sharing the U.S. Canada border with Montana's Glacier Park to form the International Peace Park. To us, it's like Banff with fewer tourists.

We had to go back a second time to get the pictures, because the first time we tried, we got flooded out.

I'm not sure it qualified as a "flash" flood, but it came quite quickly. When we were awakened in our hotel room to be evacuated, we were one of the last cars to make it out... driving thru where we should not have been driving.



Back at the main highway, we stopped for breakfast (on the wrong side of the river), and by the time we came out, the route north from Ft. MacLeod was flooded as well. Large detour lay between us and Calgary.



The hike up "Bear's Hump" was another of those that Sue threatened to kill me for... but set the tone for several easier hikes on the second trip.

Banff

Banff is a national favourite for good reason. No need to elaborate.



Jasper

Jasper is that park north of Banff; the one you drive to via the “Icefields Parkway” – maybe the most notable drive on a map of Canada.



Kananaskis Country

If you head west from Calgary toward Banff, but turn south as you approach the mountains, you'll be in the Kananaskis wilderness area. While breathtakingly beautiful, it is less developed than the national parks. Perfect for the slightly more adventurous.



Kananaskis Lodge is a well known resort in the area, often used for conferences, including one I was lucky enough to attend to make a presentation - in the days when we were all still learning to use Powerpoint. (Caught these pictures along the road on the way in.)

Drumheller

A forty eight kilometer “Dinosaur Trail” loops thru rather unique badlands type terrain at Drumheller.

One of the physical features found along the route are the “Hoodoos” which are sandstone pillars with a cap, formed by erosion.

The Royal Tyrrell museum is filled with dinosaur exhibits, making it a popular spot for kids and curious tourists.

Their dinosaur statue has been replaced a few times over the years; each one growing in size over the previous version. When digging up dinosaurs, the bigger the better.



Lethbridge

Our friend Debi introduced us to her intriguing adopted home town.



Railroad trestle



Japanese Garden



Weir at the University of Lethbridge is a popular spot for pelicans



Windy Lethbridge is the gateway to Waterton Lakes... Wind gauge at the left symbolizes the predominant weather



Calgary



I remember when the “Calgary Tower” dominated the skyline.

This picture is from 1991, showing how fast the city has grown.
(It’s even worse now.)

Here’s how it looked
in the mid nineteen
seventies.



Other Calgary attractions include their world class zoo, their western themed “Heritage Park” Historical Village, the Olympic ski jump, and of course, their annual stampede.

In the 1980’a and 90’s they had a strip of clubs downtown that was known as “Electric Avenue”, where I was as out of place as a cowboy in haute couture.

Edmonton



I've always had an uneasy relationship with Edmonton, because of work experiences. (I worked there briefly, and then later worked for a company headquartered in Winnipeg, with a troublesome branch office in Edmonton.... but that is telling tales out of school and the Edmontonians would be able to offer their side of the story.)

I was always impressed with the picturesque grounds surrounding their legislative building, however.

The best view of the skyline is from their "high level bridge" over the North Saskatchewan River.

Probably the most popular spot in Edmonton is the Mall. Huge shopping mall. Doesn't interest me at all. Includes a waterpark.

They also have an impressive botanical display at the Muttart Conservatory, housed in glass pyramid structures. It features a stinky "corpse flower" they've named "Putrella", which thankfully blooms only every few years.

In recent times, my relationship with the city improved to the point where I went there simply to buy a car. Basically, Sue found a suitable car on the internet and sent me to Edmonton to retrieve it.

Medicine Hat

The Saamis Teepee, largest teepee in the world, originally built to house the Olympic flame for the Calgary Winter Olympics, is now an iconic landmark in Medicine Hat.

It is painted white for purity, red for the rising and setting sun, and blue for the flowing river.

It is a tribute to Canada's native heritage.



The rather impressive sized snake shown below was hitch hiking along the road to the golf course the day I drove there looking for a picture. It doesn't have rattles, but I didn't get close enough to further identify it.

By the way, Alberta has a crazy law fining anyone ten thousand dollars if they're caught killing a prairie rattler. No wonder true Albertans are suspicious of environmentalists, politicians, and men in suits.



Western Prairie - Stettler AB / Leader SK

While we were visiting the area along the border between Alberta and Saskatchewan, we went to see a wood worker who lives in Stettler.

We had been so impressed with his laser printing of pictures on wooden photo albums that we envisioned a picture craft business around it. We figured it was time we went to see how they were made. "All About Pictures" is still a registered partnership in Manitoba. There is a business card in my wallet, but we never expanded the product line (yet).



Enroute to Stettler, Alberta



Leader, Saskatchewan - prairie storms and pronghorns



Kindersley
and
Kerrobert



Alberta Best Tacky Statues



Kobasa (garlic sausage) in Mundare



Pysanka (Easter Egg) in Vegreville



"Squirt" the Skunk in Beiseker



"Pinto MacBean" in Bow Island

Saskatchewan



“Big Prairie Towns”



The signs say it all....



Regina



Wascana Park (“Buffalo Bones” in Cree)
by the Legislature



And “Pemmican
Pete” on a pole...

(a symbol from
Regina’s “Buffalo
Days” fair... has
now been phased
out – fair being
renamed “Queen
City EX”)

Casino Regina is also a big draw. Big and bold – but we are always less impressed “after” visiting the casino than before.

Regina is the city with arguably the most loyal Canadian Football League (CFL) fans. Each year the Labour Day Classic and the Banjo Bowl, played on two consecutive weekends in September, cause Reginans and Winnipeggers to visit each other’s stadiums (and bars).

Big Muddy



It took us forever to find this landmark, but we saw lots of hawks and meadowlarks, and two vultures, along the way.
(But tell me there is not something wrong with that horse.)



Prince Albert



Prince Albert National Park is close to the city of Prince Albert. Preponderance of people, and probably the elk too, tend to congregate around Lake Waskesui. The park is much bigger than that, but the Summer we visited, we were kept from the hiking trails by heat and the biggest biting flies ever to torture a tourist. Absolutely enjoyed the sights and sunsets.

Yorkton

Yorkton is grain farming country. Wheat and Canola.



The city has a casino too, which houses more but not friendlier slot machines than those found in Swift Current.

As if to counter the casino, there is a cathedral (St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic) to which you may ask permission to enter and photograph; which we did because the murals (is that what you call them?) ... paintings on the ceiling.... are rather impressive and awe inspiring. Michelangelo, eat your heart out.



Moose Jaw



If you were considering a statue to represent the city of Moosejaw, what else would you choose?

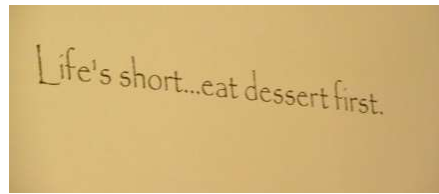
This boy is called “Mac” and rumour has it that he was named for a rather stubborn former city councillor.

Recently, a set of tunnels reputed to be frequented by Al Capone, have been unearthed for public viewing. The tour guide put on a little show, which is kind of silly and melodramatic, but fun if you’re in the right mood.

After that, you can visit the casino (Saskatchewan seems rife with casinos). Moosejaw Casino rivals Casino Regina for size and self importance.

Across the street from the casino, appropriately, is a luxury spa where you can get plastered with a mud bath. (I’m told, but I wouldn’t know.)

Kenosee



Kenosee is a once popular resort in south eastern Saskatchewan, next to Moose Mountain Park. Well it's still popular, albeit past its heyday.

And yet again, close to one of the province's wicked casinos.

One of the best reasons to stay at the lodge rather than cabins or camping, is that Moose Mountain has even more mosquitoes than Turtle Mountain in Western Manitoba. And that's too many.

Other than the mosquitoes though, the walking trails are excellent.

Qu'appelle Valley

The best time to drive thru the Qu'appelle, is when the canola is in bloom at the beginning of July. Well, best time to drive thru most of the prairie nowadays. Used to be “amber waves of grain”, meaning wheat; now it's yellow canola... popular now because it's a much more valuable crop.



The Qu'appelle Valley is the scenic route to Regina if driving from the Manitoba border. It's not the quickest route, of course, but if one has the time, it's well worth it. Should be done at least once by all Saskatchewanians and Manitobans.

The “quickest” route thru Manitoba and Saskatchewan is the Trans Canada Highway. Sadly, if all you see of the prairie provinces is from that highway, you'd get a rather drab impression of the scenery. The only part that's flat. Twenty miles on either side is an entirely different world.

Cypress Hills

The Cypress Hills are shared by Alberta and Saskatchewan just above the Montana border.

On the Saskatchewan side, the “Gap Road” is rather remote but we were still young enough to be adventurous. We managed to lock our keys in the car while camping, and then flatten a tire on the trek back to Maple Creek. Enjoyed it all. Especially the first nations lodge where we relaxed in the swimming pool while they carted our tire to town to fix it for free.



Fort Walsh is an old Northwest Mounted Police site

Saskatoon



The casino is actually quite a way out of town on a First Nation, but at the edge of town there is a “berry farm” featuring the iconic Saskatoon berry. They have made a whole tourist destination out of it; with restaurant, event center, and shopping. Great pie.

The best view in town is the bridge over the river with the Bessborough Hotel in the background..... someday I’ll go there and take a picture of it.

The thing that bothers me about Saskatoon is the “Ring Road”, which circles the town. Kind of. I’ve never driven it without getting lost.

And then there was the “quick” lunch that my brother-in-law Michael and I stopped for as we were driving through. On the Ring Road.

We circled back to a shopping center with a popular food court spot featuring “seasoned sea salt” fries. The lineup indicated that everyone was there for the fries. So naturally, with every customer, the cook started a new batch of fries. The quick lunch took two hours.

Driving around the ring road takes only twenty minutes if you don’t take the wrong turn.

Estevan



Estevan, Saskatchewan holds a special place in our touring tales.

We arrived in the rain, after dark, and the GPS took us to the backside of town instead of the hotel. As the street lights experienced a power failure. With our headlights obliterated with Saskatchewan mud. (You can't make this stuff up.)

The road at the far end of town took a sudden left turn, which I missed as I realized I suddenly couldn't see a damn thing. (I was driving.)

I was in the process of applying the brakes on the way to the railroad track, when we hit something near that dirt pile in the picture. And tore the bumper off.

So being resourceful prairie folks, we found a different hotel, tied the bumper on with boot laces, and drove home the next day.



"Lignite Louis"

Swift Current

Affectionately referred to as “Speedy Creek”, this little burg is a popular stopping point for Winnipeggers heading west. Only because that is how far I can comfortably drive in one day. If I forget to fill up in Regina, the car runs out of gas at Moose Jaw, and I run out of gas a little further down the road at Swift Current.

That wouldn’t happen to the little vehicle I saw parked at the motel last time I stayed there. It was a solar powered car, being driven across Canada with great fanfare. (My car is in the background.)



If you are more interested in foot power, there is an excellent 18 km walking/jogging/cycling/roller blading trail along Swift Current Creek, called the Chinook Parkway.

Like a lot of Saskatchewan towns, there is a little casino in Swift Current; and like all of the other casinos, it has some very unforgiving slot machines.

If you’d rather go see antelope, just head north of town in the early evening; or basically anytime.

Rouleau

Rouleau, Saskatchewan, between Weyburn and Regina (the flattest part of the world), is the on site location for shooting an old TV show called “Corner Gas” – starring Brent Butt, who by the way, is from Tisdale, SK.

The fictional town of “Dog River” is represented on the corner of the main highway and the entrance to Rouleau. They even painted out the town name on the grain elevator, and renamed it Dog River.

The set of Ruby’s Café is a placebo, but the bar back in town is real. We had to have a beer.



Saskatchewan – Notable Tacky Statues



Someone made a series of trades on the Internet; starting with a red paperclip and ending up with a house in Kipling, Sask. Hence the statue.



Coffee Pot in Davidson



Honey Bee in Tisdale



"Quilly Willy" in Porcupine Plain



"Potash Pete" in Esterhazy



Riding Mountain

Riding Mountain National Park is best known for the development around Clear Lake, including the townsite of Wasagaming, an excellent golf course, and the Elkhorn Resort.

Other features of the park are equally interesting though. Riding Mountain offers trails for use in all seasons; hiking in summer, and cross-country skiing in winter.

Our wildlife viewing has included bears, foxes, moose, eagles, bison, deer; and “Whiskey Jacks” eating crackers out of Sue’s hand.



East Gate – Riding Mtn Park



Audy Lake



One of our favourite glimpses of wildlife was a moose in the wintertime, stopping and stooping to lick the salt from the road.

The all time favourite memory, though, was returning from Audy Lake to encounter the bison herd on the road – in pitch darkness. Only their eyeballs were visible, dancing in the headlights.

Pembina Valley

The Manitoba Escarpment begins near the Manitoba / North Dakota border, in the Pembina River Valley, and extends north westward thru the “Parklands”.



Pembina Valley Prov Park



Near Holland, MB



Morden, MB



La Riviere, MB

Pembina Valley Park includes an excellent hiking trail, about ten miles long, which was easily accomplished in the years before we became seniors. The day we walked it, we came back to the car to find a ticket for failing to display a park permit. The nearest place to obtain such a thing, is the town of Morden, some miles away, so we gritted our teeth and considered it a fair fee as contribution to park maintenance.

Morden and Winkler are competing towns with a thriving agricultural economy. Morden includes a modern fossil discovery center, known for a couple of marine dinosaurs found in a nearby dig – named “Bruce” and “Suzy” - from the ancient sea that covered the area eons ago.

Gilbert Plains



Nowhere near a seacoast, this working lighthouse is on the Meyer farm in Manitoba.

Not sure when this guy finds the time to farm, because he seems to love building things. Elaborate structures. He has a little stream running thru the property and decided to build himself a lighthouse. For no good reason, except he wanted to. Along with a solar powered windmill. On a site where he re-constructed his grandparent's ancestral home from the eighteen hundreds.

Some months after we visited, the builder Robyn Meyer, actually ran across our webpage and posted a good natured reply to correct a misconception I'd had – where I implied that he'd stolen his road sign saying "Ragged Ass Road" from the City of Yellowknife; but he claims to have paid for it. He made my day.

Souris

The town of Souris boasts that it has the longest “swinging bridge” in Canada. Other towns make the same claim, but when in Souris....



Old Bridge 1993



Rebuilt 2013



Souris “skyline”



94 yr old Jack Tufts with his Model T



Souris also claims that this oak tree in Victoria Park is over 500 years old.... Experts don't think that's likely, but don't argue.

The pioneer spirit is exemplified by locals such as Jack Tufts who spent 6 yrs rebuilding a 1914 Model T Ford. He couldn't find wooden spokes for the wheels, so he made his own out of hickory. (First he had to make a machine to attach to his lathe so he could get the correct double bevel on the ends that attach to the hub.)

Spruce Woods



We used to go to Spruce Woods, along the Assiniboine River, for the hiking trails (cross country ski trails in Winter).

It's famous for "Spirit Sands", a little desert with sand dunes and all. The trail continues to the "Devil's Punchbowl", where we once watched a mother beaver move her several little ones to a new location (after we accidentally stepped on their den while crossing a little stream).

International Peace Garden

The International Peace Gardens are along the border – in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park. The northern half is maintained by the province of Manitoba; while the southern half is maintained by the state of North Dakota.



Peace Towers



9-11 monument– twin tower girders



The Peace Towers on the border, suffer from deterioration and are being replaced by a newer and even more prominent and dramatic design.

Our favourite memories of this park, are sitting watching pelicans skimming across the water while we were having a picnic lunch; and being stopped on the road by a wild turkey gobbler, who objected to the sound of the horn on the rented Miata convertible we were driving on Sue's birthday. He bravely stood there and challenged that horn until he got bored and allowed us to pass.

Turtle's Back

Close to, but not included in, Turtle Mountain Park, is the Manitoba "peak" known as Turtle's Back.

The best access is by trail from the William's Lake campground; or at least it used to be.



This was the hike in 2001, that prompted Sue to make me promise that never again would we embark on any kind of hiking in 30 degree temperatures. (A promise that I've reneged on a few times.) Not only did we endure the heat, we suffered the indignity of several wood ticks tagging along. Then our air mattress deflated during the night, which prompted Sue to sleep the rest of the night in the car. BUT, we were privileged to watch a turtle covering her eggs in the sand, which seemed to compensate for it all.

Red River Valley / St. Andrews



St. Andrew's on the Red



St. Peter's Dynevor

The stonemason Duncan McRae, who is credited with much of the limestone architecture around the Red River settlement in the eighteen hundreds, was Sue's great-great-grandfather on her mother's side.



To prevent ice jamming and flooding on the river each Spring, an ice breaker known as an amphibex, is employed from the mouth of Netley Creek upstream to the city of Selkirk.

We dubbed the road from Breezy Point to Netley Creek, "Owl Alley", due to the prolific sightings of Great Grey Owls a few years ago.

Lake Winnipeg

The larger resort communities of Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach are the best known, but the beaches of Lake Winnipeg include many others.



Balsam Bay



Patricia Beach



Pelicans at Balsam Bay



Matlock wooden pier



Eagles at Beconia



Camp Morton

Whiteshell

Several fishing, camping, and canoe trips were experienced in Whiteshell Provincial Park – at the western edge of the “Canadian Shield”.



Mantario Lake



White Lake



Hunt Lake



Near Pointe du Bois



Canoeing thru one of the tunnels at Caddy Lake



The northern section of the park is comprised of lakes along the Winnipeg River, that were created when the hydro dams were constructed downstream. Cottagers flocked in to enjoy the new terrain.

Falcon Lake

One of the more populated lakes in the Whiteshell is Falcon Lake.



For some years, we spent our anniversary weekend at the “Falcon Trails Resort”. The cabins feature outdoor hot tubs, which were sometimes a challenge, as our anniversary falls in early April; when the lake is generally still frozen.

The first year we went, I had managed to book the wrong hotel – Falcon Lake Resort “Hotel” on the other side of the lake; where we were wakened at two in the morning to a brawl in the parking lot after the bar closed. The next time, Sue made the reservations!



High Lake by trail from Falcon

A ski hill dominates the Winter season, a beach and water skiing occupy the Summer; and Sue and Ron appreciate the off season in between.

West Hawk Lake

West Hawk Lake is another popular spot close to Falcon.

Tall Pines Lodge was another anniversary weekend for us; where we were greeted by a mother fox who seemed to supervise the grounds while scrounging food for her kits. She even took a snooze on the roof of our car.



West Hawk is a rather deep lake, different from other lakes in the area because it is a crater formed by a meteor crashing to the earth.



Adjacent Hunt Lake, on the southeast side of West Hawk, is the start of the challenging Hunt Lake Hiking Trail. The trail follows the east shore of West Hawk, which is a seemingly never ending stretch of high granite rocks. Not for faint hearts or weak knees.

Pinawa



The old Pinawa Dam Site is the location of the first hydro electric power station to serve the city of Winnipeg. It has since been demolished, but is still a popular park for fishing and sight seeing. Some bears like it too.

The nearby town of Pinawa was built to service a nuclear research reactor; also demolished, but active as a retirement community.

An afternoon of canoeing once started with me falling head first off the dock, while trying to get into the canoe. They let us rent it anyway, but were nervous enough to come looking for us when we didn't return to the dock until nearly sundown.

Lac du Bonnet



The town of Lac du Bonnet is actually on the Winnipeg River, but the lake is nearby – reached by water.

The town has a great “Home Hardware”, and not much else a cynic might say; but it is the gateway to some isolated lakes and fishing lodges accessible by air (bush plane).

Not so isolated, is nearby Lee River, where brother and sister-in-law, Gord and Tami, have an excellent waterfront spot. We’ve been lucky enough to have witnessed some spectacular sunsets from their dock.

Belair Forest



Agassiz Forest, where this eagle was admired, lies between Belair and Lac du Bonnet.

My mother's family homestead is near the town of Stead, which is near the Belair Forest Preserve. As kids, we did so much blueberry picking there, that it's amazing I still like blueberries.

I do remember needing to climb that forestry tower every chance I got though; and so when introducing the area to Sue, I couldn't resist coaxing her to share the experience. I also remember her parents not being impressed with the precarious pictures. (Sue wasn't either, especially on the way down.)

Northern Manitoba

Winnipeg to Thompson - 764 km; and that's barely 2/3 way to Churchill.



Pisew Falls (Thompson)



Thompson



Herb Lake Landing (Wekusko Lake)



Flin Flon - "Flintabbatey Flonatin"



Paint Lake (Thompson)



Manasan Falls (Thompson)

Churchill



We're among the few Manitobans who have visited Churchill twice; once by air in mid October to see polar bears, and once by train in Summer to see Belugas. Turns out we saw more bears on the summer trip. Also more mosquitoes in Summer.



For the best bear pic: Sue accidentally hit the horn of the tour bus while focusing her camera - to startle the sleeping polar bear into a more alert pose. The driver thanked her, saying he wasn't "allowed to do that."

Duck Mountain



Reconstructed forest ranger cabin



Laurie Lake



Baldy Mountain – highest point in Manitoba



If you look at a map of Manitoba, you'll find provincial parks pasted over patches of higher ground; with names ending in "Mountain". Duck Mountain for example, houses the highest point of land in the province: a hump known as "Baldy Mountain".

You can drive over the mountain along the road thru the park, and be forgiven if you didn't notice that you were at the top of a hill, but a short walk from the side of the summit, will take you to an overlook that reveals a hidden highlight.

The elevation of Baldy Mountain is 2730 ft. which is actually higher than some Appalachian Peaks, like Owl's Head, Quebec, which is 2480. Somewhat deceiving, for the flat terrain well known in the keystone province of Manitoba.

Sandilands

The southeast corner of Manitoba is composed of the Sandilands and the Northwest Angle Provincial Forests.



Owl Spotting near Hadashville, MB



Sandhill Cranes near Woodridge



Buffalo Point, Lake of the Woods

Snowmobilers and four wheeler enthusiasts know this area well, but others driving along the Trans Canada Highway en route to the Whiteshell or points east, may not realize how remote this wilderness is.

A little piece of land jutting into Lake of the Woods, the “Northwest Angle” actually belongs to Minnesota, even though the only land access is from Manitoba. It’s an accident of map making, but they’re not giving it up. A “self serve” check in station with a video camera serves as the border crossing.

Steeprock



Not sure what inspired us to try camping again in mid life, but we pitched a pup tent right on the lake shore at Steeprock, and enjoyed it enough to go out and buy a better tent.

The campground was just being developed, and we were able to resist the owner's attempt to have us occupy the "marked sites" further back in the bush. Why do campground officials do that?

We were about the only campers in residence that night, and I can remember roasting marshmallows, lying back pointing out the difference between satellites and stars, breaking our flimsy lawn chairs, and trying to find the outhouse in the dark.

Narcisse



The Red Sided Garter Snake dens at Narcisse are famous; and the nearby town of Inwood constructed a statue in their honour - "Sara" and "Sam".

Kamarno, the next town over, felt the need to compete, with a statue symbolizing their most prominent feature – a big mosquito weather vane.

Gimli



Various types of boats have visited the Gimli dock over the years.



Gimli is known as New Iceland, and hosts the annual Icelandic Festival known as “Islendingadagurinn”, of which our sister-in-law, Tami, is a past president.

Fishermen and sailing enthusiasts share the lake, while cottagers and beachgoers share the shoreline. Both love the pickerel filets, but true Icelanders import “hardfish” from Newfoundland for reasons not well understood.

Hecla Island



Before they built the bridge, access to Hecla Island was by ferry. (That was before they build the fancy lodge with the waterslide.)



When the whole island was turned into a provincial park, the locals were ousted, in one of the most notable mistakes ever made by politicians and bureaucrats. As a result, the island lost some of its local charm, and a couple of decades later, the originals were offered their land back. For some of them it was too late.



Hecla village has been restored, though, including structures of some of the original homesteads.

Here is Sue pointing out the locations of a couple of her ancestors who settled on the island.

Matheson Island



Ferry to Matheson Island



Pine Dock – en route to the island

Matheson Island is a contrast to Hecla, in that no tourist has ever heard of it. It's on the same lake though, and exists on fishing. (Have to say that the fish attract flies, so walking on the shore was curtailed in our case.)

We felt the need to visit because Matheson is Sue's mother's maiden name.

The island is named for a former prominent resident, Daniel Matheson (no relation), but it used to be called "Snake Island" because of the proliferation of garter snakes. (No wonder Hecla became more popular.)

St. Lupicin



Most people think Manitoba is flat. Well, it mostly is. Prairie farmers like it that way. Pound it down, flatten it out, plough it over, and plant on it.

But in the middle of the splat, one can find a few interesting places. The road to St. Lupicin is not even on the official provincial roadmap, so the people hosting a wedding on this particular Saturday posted their own signs – to let you know that you’re “almost there”.

It’s in a valley, so the scenic roadway runs through rolling hills. It’s a few kilometers south of the Trans Canada Highway, about an hour west of Winnipeg. I’d venture a day’s casino wagers that very few Manitobans know or care it’s there. Most of us never knew Manitoba even had valleys. There is more than one highway running across the province of Manitoba, but none of them run through St. Lupicin.

Winnipeg – Our Home Town and Canada’s best kept secret



Festival du Voyageur



Manitoba Legislative Bldg from the water taxi



Skating on the River Trail



Sturgeon Creek near our house

Winnipeg – Assiniboine Forest



Enjoying a family Winter Walk



There is a deer in this picture – right side of the trail...

Assiniboine Forest in West Winnipeg is a fairly large forested area right in the city. Walking and biking trails allow us to share the landscape with the many deer. A popular spot for dog walking as well. (Just don't leave valuables in the car at the parking lot... as we found out.)

Winnipeg – Assiniboine Park



Iconic pavilion at the park.... The duck pond has since been expanded, but it's still the clearest picture I developed myself at photography class in the mid 70's



The zoo at Assiniboine Park has a new Churchill exhibit..... with seals and polar bears, musk oxen, arctic foxes, and wolves.

But the pontificating white bear above left, is actually a young albino black bear, housed at the old bear compound in 2005.

Winnipeg – Fort Whyte Alive



“Fort Whyte Alive” is a nature site and waterfowl refuge in the city, with family oriented activities to promote conservation and outdoor activities.

Goslings in the Spring are still an attraction, as are the bird feeding stations, bison compound, and even the café serving bison burgers.

It’s a staging area for migrating geese, and whatever one thinks of the over population of geese, the evening “goose flights” are impressive to watch, as they blacken the sky, gyrating down to land on the lake for the night.

In our early days, we even got up at sunrise to watch them leave. (We got there too early and had to wait for them to wake up first.)

Winnipeg – Kildonan Park



Kildonan Park in North Winnipeg, contains some of the best floral displays in the city; and is the home of “Rainbow Stage” where we’ve enjoyed many Summer theatre productions after picnicking in the park.

Beaudry Park



Beaudry Park, just west of Winnipeg, is an excellent spot for walking in the woods or cross country skiing.

Oak Hammock Marsh



Oak Hammock Marsh is a bird refuge; a marsh with water levels maintained by man made dikes and control valves, to facilitate waterfowl breeding sites.

Ducks Unlimited built their headquarters here, amid some controversy from a few faux environmentalists who never go outside; but the building fits in well, and offers an excellent interpretive center for true nature lovers. (The roof of the building contains grass and is a popular nesting site.)

The area has always been a popular spot for viewing waterfowl, but thousands of the birds can hide in the reeds without anyone ever seeing them.

Great place for walking and enjoying birdwatching.

Miscellaneous Manitoba Statues



"Sunny & Breezy" in Melita



"Happy Rock" in Gladstone



"Gilbert"
(Gilbert Plains)



"Alpine Archie"
(McCreary)



"Chuck" the Channel Cat
(Selkirk)



"Sara" the camel in Glenboro



"Arthur" the bull in Russell

Ontario



Lake of the Woods

The Lake of the Woods Region includes Kenora, Sioux Narrows, Rushing River, Emo, Nestor Falls, Rainy River, Fort Francis, and others.



Kenora's "Huskie Muskie" Picnicking at Rushing River



Luxury lake homes, boating, and sport fishing, are what Lake of the Woods is most famous for, but the town of Kenora is also a center for commerce as well as tourism.

Whenever we visit, we can't resist a stop at the "Blue Heron" kitsch and craft shop either.

Quetico Park



Quetico Provincial Park, near Atikokan (mid way between Fort Francis and Thunder Bay), straddles the border with Minnesota's Boundary Waters, and makes for some of the best canoeing to be found in the Canadian Shield.

In 1981, we took a family canoe trip through 60 kilometers of wilderness lakes and passages, for a memorable week of paddling, portaging, photographing, and fishing; mostly in the rain. We returned much more tired than we started out, but also much more relaxed. And stinky too.

Minaki

The Minaki area has long been a vacation spot for cottagers and fishers. In days gone by, people would take the train from Winnipeg to the Ontario town of Minaki. Later, after the road was built, a luxury lodge was a prominent feature; until it burned down in 2003.

Our family experiences in the area were concentrated just south of Minaki, where sister and brother-in-law, Loretta and Gerry's family had a spot on Catherine Lake.



Long Legged Lake



Catherine Lake

Ottawa



Rideau Canal / Chateau Laurier



Parliament Buildings – Center Block



National Defence Headquarters



National War Memorial / East Block



Rideau Falls



Supreme Court

Our nation's capital is arguably the most scenic of our cities, with parkways along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, and the Rideau Canal.

I worked there for a summer in the early seventies, and remember being impressed with the bike paths. Now, when we drive thru on the way to Montreal, it seems that traffic has taken over. Maybe next time, we'll need to stop and explore – I'm sure it's just a matter of perspective.

Toronto



Toronto is affectionately known as the “Big Smoke”, by the rest of Canada that seems to revolve around it.

We’re lucky enough to be able to visit our largest city at least once a year because we have family who live there.

Once you get to know the place, it’s not so scary; in spite of the traffic and price of housing, the city is quite liveable and well managed. And with good public transit, you don’t really need to drive.

One of our favourite stories of T.O. is that when Sue and I were working at the same company, long before we got together, we were sent on a business trip to Toronto. After leaving the airport, we went to the top of the CN Tower and had a drink – but she HAS NO MEMORY of that event.

Niagara Falls



Niagara Falls is even more impressive in the Winter



Helicopter is one of the best ways to see the falls.

They have other attractions as well, especially for those impressed with birds and butterflies. Or casinos. Or tacky museums and odd emporiums



But overly commercialized or not, it's difficult not to be awed.

Thousand Islands



Gananoque



Brockville



The scenic towns of Brockville and Gananoque lie at each end of the Thousand Islands Parkway. Take pictures but best to beware of the casino in Gananoque.

Port Hope



Port Hope is a cutesy little burg on the north shore of Lake Ontario; on the way to Bellville from Toronto, if you avoid Highway 401.

Local fishers love the salmon ladder where they can walk among the thousands of salmon and trout that ignore their bait.

Great bake shops too – just ignore the pretentious conversation of the local coffee klatches occupying the tables most days.

Prince Edward County



A family wedding caused us to spend a few days in Prince Edward County, which is a peninsula on Lake Ontario at the Bay of Quinte.

It includes places like Picton, Wellington, Lake on the Mountain, and Sandbanks Provincial Park - Canada's 2nd largest freshwater beach and world's largest baywater barrier sand dunes. (World's longest freshwater beach being 14 km Wasaga Beach at the south end of Georgian Bay.)

Georgian Bay



Georgian Bay is another family favourite because Sue's sister and brother-in-law, Diane & Michael, have a spot on Go Home Bay. Whether we're building pump houses or boating or snowmobiling, it's an Ontario "cottage country" highlight.

Sudbury



Sudbury, Ontario, is home to the “Big Nickel”.

The interpretive center offers underground tours, which we didn’t have time to take, but we did take in the surface displays.

And then we went to the nearby casino. (Our travel priorities are all messed up.)



They do serious nickel mining in Sudbury; look at that slag heap.

Thunder Bay



Duncan Cousins Rob & Robbie



At Sleeping Giant Park



Sleeping Giant



Mt McKay Ojibwa Nation



One of our favourite memories is of the evening we decided to be "spontaneous", and instead of driving home from the lake, go in the other direction to visit Kakabeca Falls. We got there after midnight, stayed in a flea bag motel and admired the falls

More recent trips to Thunder Bay included watching nephew Robert and his cousin Robbie, compete in an annual canoe race their great-grandfather founded; after retracing a canoe trip recorded in his grandfather's journals. (We won't talk about the casino for a change.)

Sault Ste. Marie

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, shares the border with Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The location between Lakes Superior and Huron, is important for shipping thru the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.



At the locks carrying vessels past the rapids



Many animal statues in Sault Ste. Marie... moose, fish, moose bagging a hunter... but the bears at the fishing pier are our favourites.

Need I mention that Sault Ste. Marie also has a casino?

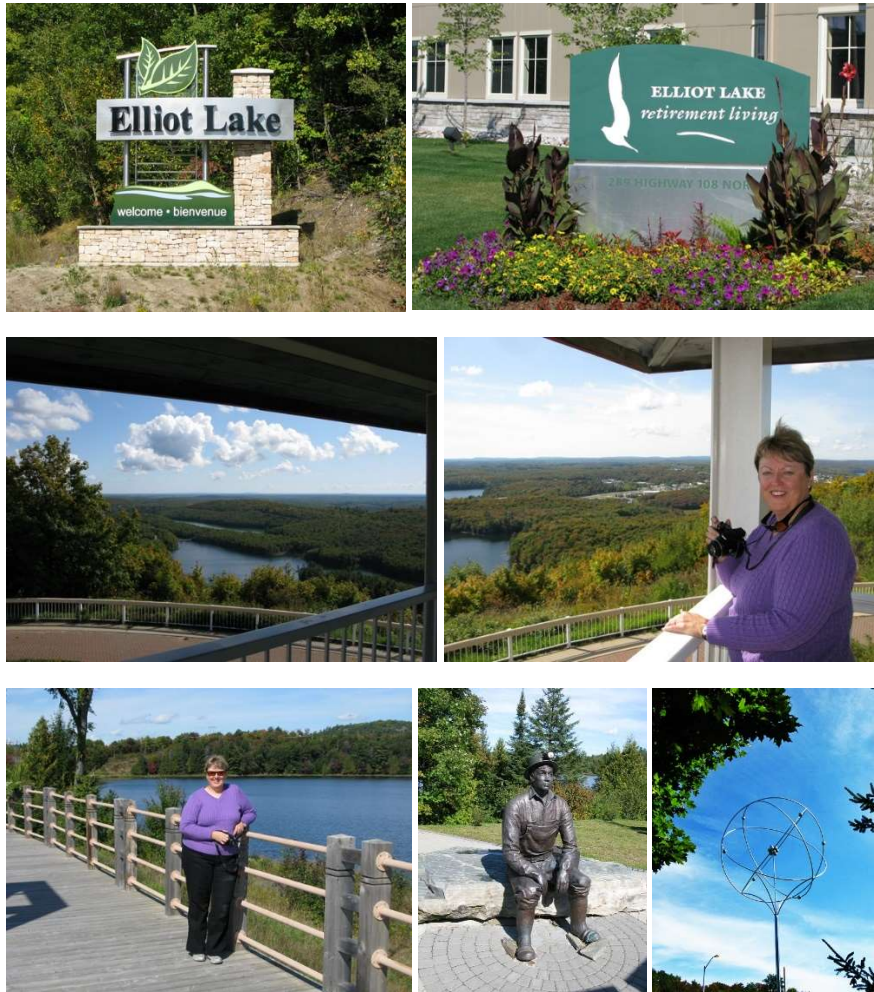
Manitoulin Island



Manitoulin Island on Lake Huron is a unique landmark east of Sault Ste Marie. (Largest freshwater island in the world.)

From here one can take the ferry to Tobermory on the Bruce Peninsula; a trip we intend to take “next time” we drive east.

Eliot Lake



On one of our drives to the east, we detoured for a stop at Eliot Lake, because I'd seen ads for retirement living. They used to mine uranium here, and are now looking to retirees to keep the town going. It was cheap and perfect. I don't know why others dismissed it. It's a beautiful spot! So what if it's cold – we come from “Winterpeg”! It's way south of us. They say it's remote – c'mon, it's a short drive from the bustling metropolis of Sault Ste. Marie! Sue loved it and rejected it anyway.

Wawa

We were drawn to Wawa by the iconic goose statue on the highway; but when we got there, we were directed to town to see the original version.



Wawa statue



Original Version



Competing Motel statue



High Falls



Gitchee Goomee – is what they call Lake Superior

Other Ontario Statues



Upsala "Waldo the Great"



Smooth Rock Falls



Colborne



Long Lac



Beardmore



Vermillion Bay (Bigfoot)

Québec



Quebec City



The iconic Chateau Frontenac, the old walled city, the Plains of Abraham, are among well known landmarks of historic Quebec City.

A horse drawn calèche is a great way to see the sights, including a cannonball imbedded in a tree.

Because we like waterfalls, we had to visit Chutes Montmorency, even though it was snowing that day.

And take the funicular, the inclined cable railway that links upper town to the narrow streets of lower town.

Montreal



Our favourite part of Montreal, is “Old Montreal” along the harbour front, probably because of the restaurants.

It’s the place to see street buskers, and view classic old buildings as well; Notre Dame Cathedral being prominent among them.

Even larger St. Joseph’s Oratory overlooks the city.

And yes, Casino Montreal is the largest I’ve ever been lost in.

l'Etrie



North Hatley



l'Abbaye de Saint-Benoît-du-Lac



Browns Hill en route to Ayers Cliff



Fitch Bay (My father-in-law's favourite view apparently)

The scenic Eastern Townships of Quebec (l'Etrie) are east of Montreal toward Sherbrooke.

Situated north of the Vermont border, it offers spectacular "leaf looking" during the fall foliage season, usually around Canadian Thanksgiving.

Lac Memphrémagog, Lac Brome, Lac Massawippi, all offer great cottage country with lakeside sights and pursuits.

Excellent skiing as well.

Georgeville



We're a little partial to Georgeville because Sue's family considers "home base" at the family cottage to be their own special part of God's country. Those sunsets from the deck are definitely hard to beat.

Stanstead

Stanstead, Quebec, shares the Canadian / U.S. border with Derby Line (Beebe Plain), Vermont. Stanstead is the combined communities of Stanstead, Beebe, and Rock Island.



In fact, the border, now a little less open than it used to be, runs right through the Haskell Opera House. A line on the floor of the library, indicates which country you happen to be standing in.



Apple orchard near Stanstead

“Standing stones” in Stanstead

A nearby granite quarry supplies monuments, and factories with giant circular saws can be seen slowly slicing huge granite slabs into tombstone sized pieces for engraving.

Coaticook

The area around Coaticook, and thru Barnston, en route to Lac Lyster makes one of the best scenic drives in the area. The hiking trail along the Coaticook Gorge is not to be missed.



Coaticook Gorge Suspension Bridge



Round Barn Visitor Center



Abandoned factory at Coaticook Dam



Residence near Coaticook



Agriculture near Barnston



Lac Lyster

Owl's Head



Owl's Head is intended for skiing, but it's a special place for us because we got engaged after hiking up to the summit.

Nowadays, we wait till the chair lift is running before going up there, but the view is still impressive.

The mountain is directly front and center when driving into Georgeville too.

Percé Rock

Percé Rock (“Pierced Rock”) sits off the end of Quebec’s Gaspé Peninsula (Gaspésie).



We even got up at sunrise because we were told that was the best time for viewing this prominent landmark.

We had a pretty good view of it from our hotel room too; and it made a fantastic backdrop for eating local lobster.



Rivière-du-Loup

The drive along the south shore from Rivière-du-Loup through Rimouski, and Mont-Joli, along the Gaspé to Percé Rock is stunning.



Sunset over the St. Lawrence



Jardins de Métis (Reford Gardens)



La Martre



Pointe-à-la-Renommée



Cap-des-Rosiers – tallest in Canada



Cape Blanc at Percé

Laurentians

We always seem to visit the ski areas in the summertime.

At Mont Tremblant, however, the cable cars run all year long, and the restaurants are always open. The way we like it.

Oh yes, they do have a casino too.



Forillon Park

Forillon National Park, at the end of the Gaspé Peninsula, is a great spot for viewing wildlife and hiking.

The day we walked up to the lighthouse, there was bear scat all along the trail, but although others saw them, they avoided us. We'd prefer to watch whales anyway. (Also saw a porcupine scurrying away.)



New Brunswick



Fundy National Park



Alma, New Brunswick



Harbour at Alma



Along the Fundy Trail



Fundy National Park



We stayed in a cabin in the park, near Alma; where I dumped my camera in the drink while canoeing. Had to rely on Sue's camera until buying a new one in Fredericton. (No, drying it in a bag of rice didn't work.)

Hopewell Rocks

There is arguably no better spot to experience the high tides of the Bay of Fundy, than the “Flower Pots” – at Hopewell Rocks.



The first time we were here, one could basically walk down the hill from the road, or the motel where we stayed; but years later when we returned, the park people organized it. Now you have to park, pay, and walk a way. Price of progress.

A couple of months after getting back home, we read in the newspaper about part of the biggest rock collapsing. (We didn't do it, honest.)

Shediac



I'd been waiting to take a picture of that lobster statue in Shediac ever since I saw it on TV years before.

We had been referred to the bed and breakfast by a mutual friend back in Winnipeg. The guys who owned it, cooked us a fabulous breakfast; although I'd have to admit I didn't recognize many of the ingredients. Pretty sure there was a fancy egg in there somewhere.

They gave us some good travel tips for the rest of the province, which probably influenced our route somewhat.

Bouctouche



Many pictures of New Brunswick now feature this iconic boardwalk. It's part of Le Pays De La Sagouine, on Flea Island at Bouctouche, an Acadian Cultural Center featuring the writings of Antonine Maillet.

Great place to visit, but everything is in French, so there wasn't much point in us staying for the play being performed.

Kouchibouguac



Kouchibouguac National Park is known as a conservation area for birds. Good walking trails, but here's another thing that New Brunswick has in common with our home province of Manitoba – they both have mosquitoes that seem as big as birds.



Kelly's Beach bird refuge



Wine cellar at Jean-Yves' restaurant

In the nearby supply center of Saint-Louis de Kent, is a restaurant with a connection to Winnipeg – in that the owner showed us a clipping he'd saved from the Winnipeg Free Press – by the food critic who visited and wrote that they made the "world's best" seafood pizza. And we got to pick our own wine from the cellar.

Miscou Island



It's a long drive to the northeast corner of New Brunswick, out to a windy spot called Miscou Island – where they tied the lighthouse down with cables. Can't imagine what it must be like in the Winter.

The Atlantic coast here is rugged, as are the Acadians who populated it. This is Acadian country, and their flag flies everywhere.

Campbellton



Bay of Chaleur

We pretty much made a detour to visit Campbellton because of the salmon statues.

They've done a great job making the waterfront a "people place".

Situated on the south shore of the Chaleur Bay across from Quebec, the town is a center for the fishing and forestry industries.

Salmon features prominently in sport fishing in the area as well.

Saint John River Valley



Hartland



Nackawic



Near Gagetown (Lower Musquash)



Florenceville-Bristol
(home of McCain's)



From the forests of the upper St. John River, down to the rich agriculture land in the lower section – the river is a dominant feature of the landscape in western NB.

Fiddleheads are the shoots of a fern – popular delicacy on the east coast.

Saint John



Lunch at Reversing Falls



Fort Howe

Saint John Harbour

The industrial port city of Saint John where the St. John River flows into the Bay of Fundy, is home to “Reversing Falls”; where the river runs one way at low tide, and the other way at high tide.

Fredericton



The Capital City of Fredericton has that government town feel – clean downtown, historic buildings, clerks and bureaucrats in restaurants at lunch hour.... Nice place for a quiet visit.

I was surprised that we didn't take more pictures; but to be fair, we did buy a camera there.

I remember a large popular breakfast buffet place featuring potatoes too.

Fredericton Junction

Off the main highway now, Fredericton Junction was an important stop along the railroad that helped develop New Brunswick. In fact, it was a popular spot for “hobos”. One of them now has a statue there in his honour. He dressed like Lord Beaverbrook, and was so nicknamed.



We spent quite awhile on a road less travelled to find the monument to the “murder of the pedlar”; an incident now imbedded in local folklore – although most of the locals couldn’t locate the commemorating statues.



The historic railway station in **McAdam** is another such place. When built, it was on a main railway line, and expected to grow to prominence.

St. Andrews by-the-Sea



Grand Manan



The lady at the tourist information center in St. George, told us that we probably wouldn't find Grand Manan Island very interesting. She herself had been there only once, and had returned on the next ferry.

The server at the restaurant told us there was nothing there. We went anyway.

Once there, it quickly became obvious that we would be late for our return ferry booking, so we asked to change our reservation so we could stay longer.

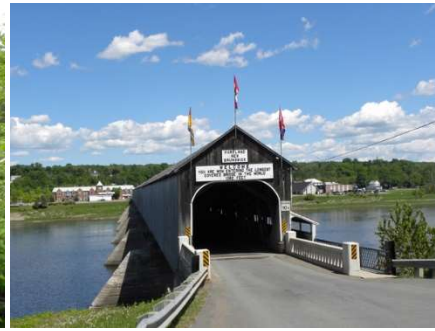
The lady at the terminal laughed and said, "Yeah, some people have that reaction. Others say, "There is nothing here, get me off!"

I guess it depends on how impressed you are with fishing boats, lighthouses, sea cliffs... Hey, we're from the prairie; we can't get enough of that stuff.

Covered Bridges



Oldest covered bridge in NB
(Nelson Hollow)



World's longest covered bridge
(Hartland)



Tynemouth Creek



Flume Falls



Irish River #1



Le Preau

New Brunswick is the province with the most covered bridges;
unfortunately, they're not being maintained so will eventually disappear.

Big New Brunswick Statues



Blackville – Camp Cook



Cambridge Narrows – Pants Down Pig



Harvey – Don Messer Tribute



Maugerville – Potato



Penobsquis – bony horse



Grand Falls – “Miss Potato”

Nova Scotia



Halifax



Halifax Harbourfront



Town Clock on Citadel Hill



Noon Gun at the Citadel



When it rains in Halifax, it's time to relax at Murphy's Pub

The Halifax harbour is a showcase for waterfront development, popular with locals and tourists alike. (Perhaps unfortunate that it includes a casino, which is another refuge in the rain.) Great restaurants too.

Peggy's Cove



Catching Cod with Walter Covey 1977



But now the tour buses have kind of ruined the atmosphere

Peggy's cove will always be a favourite icon of Canada's East Coast, even if it's been commercialized somewhat. The days when Walter charged my brother and I five bucks each for a morning of fishing are long gone.

Lunenburg



The Bluenose was docked in Lunenburg when we arrived, so we were thrilled to take the tour.

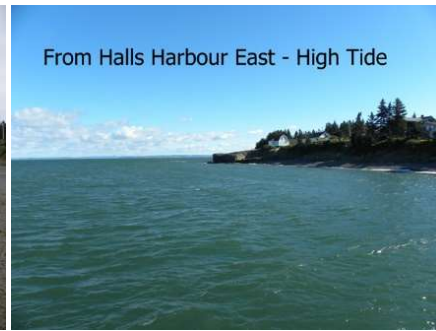
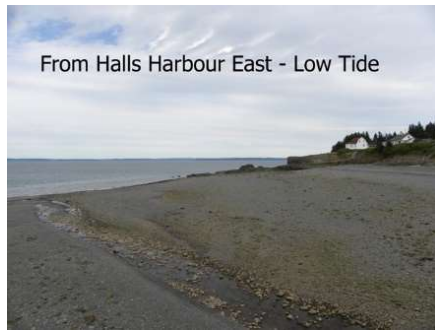
Mahone Bay



Mahone Bay has the famous scene of the four churches (there actually are four; these three just fit better in the frame).

They also have a scarecrow festival, when they decorate the whole town.

Hall's Harbour



Hall's Harbour is as yet unspoiled; offering another spot to experience the high tides of the Bay of Fundy.

Close to the Scot's Bay, Cape Split, the Minas Basin Lookout, and the Blomidon Cliffs.

Annapolis Valley



Howard Dill
(Pumpkin King)
Windsor, NS



The Annapolis Valley is home to rich agricultural lands. All of those giant pumpkins that people grow for competitions everywhere, trace their roots to a variety developed here by a gentleman from Windsor named Howard Dill.

While in Waterville, we watched a weigh in, and stole a pear.

Parrsboro

On the north shore of the Minas Basin, toward Parrsboro, we experienced rickety stairs on the hike to Economy Falls, ate at communal tables at Diane's Restaurant in Five Islands, reputed to have the best clams anywhere, and took tons of photos.



That arch on Long Island (in Five Islands) collapsed shortly after we visited; and we had nothing to do with it.



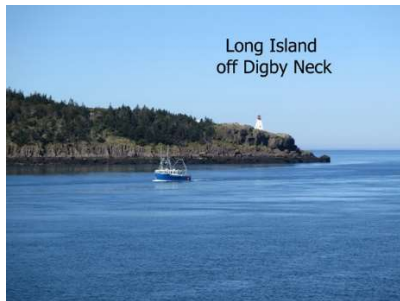
Digby



Digby Harbour



Point Prim

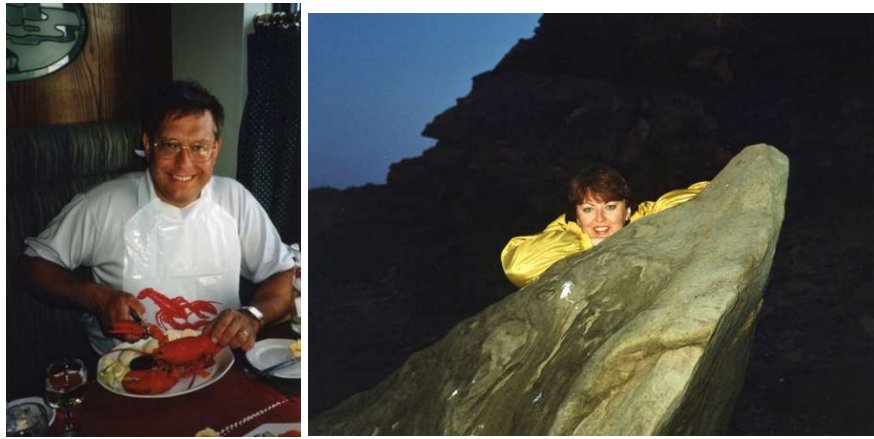


Long Island
off Digby Neck

Based on past experiences, we were quite anxious to hike to "Balancing Rock" for fear that it might collapse before we got to see it.

I can vouch for those Digby scallops; having sampled several.

Chéticamp / Mabou



Our introduction to the west coast of Cape Breton Island was a lobster dinner followed by a walk on the beach. (Prairie boys need instructions and a bib.)



Chéticamp



Mabou

Over two decades earlier I'd taken this picture of Mabou and forgotten about it. Then Sue saw a painting of the same scene while in Antigonish, and ordered a print now hanging in our living room. (The artist's rendition is much better than my photo.)

Cabot Trail



The Cabot Trail in the Cape Breton Highlands, is one of Canada's favourite drives.

We thought the fishing area just outside the park was even more breathtaking.



Baddeck



As a prairie boy, I love to watch sailboats. In Baddeck, on Cape Breton, we had a chance to sail on one – on a windy day too. The deck listed nearly 45 degrees rounding the turns. This landlubber didn't stay standing very long.

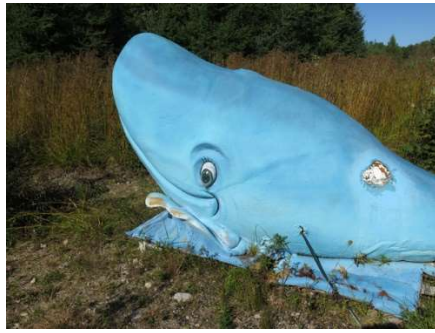
The fellow at the helm owns the boat with his father; and explained it was a "schooner" – differing from a "sloop" or a "yawl" or a "ketch" or a "cutter" - by the configuration of the masts and sails.

Shelburne



The local artisans of Shelburne hold a "Whirligig and Weathervane" Festival each year; where they show off their ingenious creations; then spend the rest of the year designing and building next year's entries.

Novel Nova Scotia Statues



Hubbards



Middle Musquodoboit



Truro



Digby



Lantz



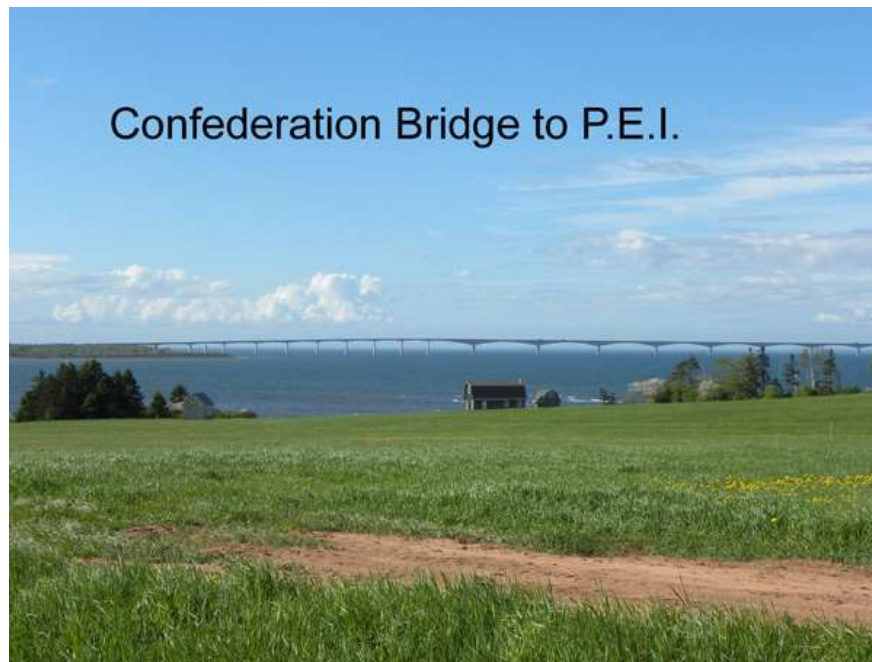
Cow Bay



Halifax

Prince Edward Island





Whether you arrive by ferry, or drive across the bridge, there is no fee to get to the island – you pay a toll when you leave.



In addition to the popular areas around Summerside and Cavendish, many other corners beckon. We managed to see “Elephant Rock” near North Point, before it collapsed (and again – we didn’t do it).

Lighthouses “End to End”

If you check in at both East Point and North Cape on the west side, you can receive a certificate for having visited the island “end to end”. We visited every lighthouse in between too.



West Point



East Point



Charlottetown



Charlottetown is known as the Cradle of Confederation.



Charlottetown Conference – where the Fathers of Confederation met

Woodleigh Replicas



Prince Edward Island seems to inspire a sense of whimsy. It certainly did so with one Ernest Johnstone and his son Archibald. They constructed scale replicas of landmarks from the United Kingdom, which they named Annandale.

It's located in the rural community of Burlington, near Kensington, PEI. (The attraction was closed in 2008.)

Prince Edward Island National Park



Cavendish Beach is the famous red sand most often associated with Prince Edward Island National Park; but the extension of the park toward the east is what we found most fascinating.

It contains the biggest sand dunes I've ever seen – we walked for what seemed like miles, along the beach that was both magnificent and unpopulated.



Newfoundland



Port aux Basques



Departure from Sidney, NS



to Arrival Port aux Basques – 5.5 hrs



Our first glimpse of Newfoundland was at Port aux Basques – after taking the ferry from Sidney, Nova Scotia.

The start of a memorable two week driving tour of NFLD.

Gros Morne

Gros Morne is a national park on the northwest side of Newfoundland, with mountains, fiords, and moose. And hiking trails. We were too early in the season to take the boat at Western Brook Pond, which crosses the fiord to the iconic view shown on all the brochures; but we did enjoy the hike to the landing.



Western Brook Pond



Tablelands



Gros Morne Mountain



L'Anse aux Meadows

L'Anse aux Meadows is a reconstruction of the Viking site at the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula, near St. Anthony. Vikings are believed to have been the first European visitors to North America over 1000 years ago.



NFLD Garden (in hills for drainage?) Sealskins drying on racks
(Labrador Coast in the background)

En route, we noticed that Newfoundlanders grow gardens along the side of the roadway, because the soil brought there for the building of the road is in sharp contrast to the usually rocky terrain.

Twillingate



While admiring the sunset over the harbour, Dale and Andy Baggs asked if we wanted to join them on a whale watching jaunt. We were fascinated as they approached the iceberg to harvest ice too. Turned out to be the highlight of our trip.

We exchanged Christmas cards with the Baggs for years afterward.

Terra Nova



Our memory of Terra Nova is of the sturdiest fire tower ever built. After climbing the stairs (not a ladder like other less formidable towers – actual stairs), one can see why they built it so strong. The winds here could wipe off a visitor like a flea in a sandstorm.



St. John's

The capital city of St. John's is on the southeast side of Newfoundland, on the more populated Avalon Peninsula.

Probably the best view of the harbour is from Signal Hill, where Marconi sent the first trans Atlantic wireless signal.



Jellybean Row



Cabot Tower on Signal Hill



St. John's Harbour



Fort Amherst



Quidi Vidi Village

Bay Bulls



Bird Island – kittiwakes



Puffins



Bay Bulls is famous for whale watching. We took the tour and saw no whales.... but were intrigued to pass by “Bird Island” where the boat picked up researchers who had spent part of their Summer amongst the bird poop. (They seemed glad to get off – all they wanted was a beer.)

It was the closest we got to see puffins too.

That’s a Newfoundland dog keeping Sue company waiting for the boat.

Historic Lighthouses

Bonavista



Bonavista is the site of John Cabot's landing when he "discovered" North America in 1497. He is reputed to have said, "O buono vista!" (Happy Sight).

Cape Spear



Lighthouses at Cape Spear

The Cape Spear Historic Site is the most easterly point in North America.

Cape Race to Trepassey



Cape Race is important as the site that first heard the distress signal from the Titanic. We'll always remember it, because to get there, we had to navigate the worst and rockiest road we've ever driven. A couple of days later we suffered the result – two flat tires at the same time. Ironically, within sight of an older fellow who had driven into the ditch while playing with his dog; who had just called a tow truck. (The young guys who came out to rescue all of us on a Friday night, repaired the tire on site – and decided it was worth “maybe three bucks” for the patch kit.)



Woodland Caribou on the Trepassey Barrens



Trepassey lighthouse



Cape St. Mary



The drive to Cape St. Mary to see the gannet colony took us all day, but it was worth it for us. Fair to say, we took a few detours along the way.

Towns Names



Yukon



Alaska Highway

In 1982 I turned 30, and the Alaska Highway turned 40. Why not take a solo drive down the length of it?



Watson Lake



Watson Lake is at the junction of the two ways to drive to the Yukon – the Stewart-Cassiar, and the Alaska Hwy; and is famous for the signposts that people steal from their home towns (or make up) and post there... apparently started by U.S. soldier Carl Lindley, from Danville, Illinois.

Kluane



Kluane Lake



Kluane Lake

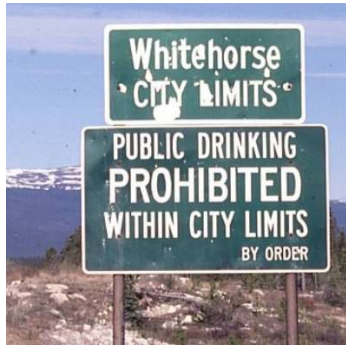


Kathleen Lake – Kluane Nat'l Park

Kluane National Park is in the St. Elias Mountains, in the southwest corner of the Yukon.

Canada's tallest peak, Mt. Logan, is situated further into the park, accessible via a one hour flight, and a 5 – 6 day ski mountaineering route along the Kings Trench. The mountain is said to be still rising due to tectonic uplifting.

Whitehorse



Dawson City



I approached Dawson City from the west – the “Top of the World Hwy”. The old sourdough who stopped to share the view, said to “imagine the history”. They have a kind of cheesy can-can show at Diamond Tooth Gerties’s, but I got no pictures.

Northwest Territories



Yellowknife



"Old Town"



Tibbitt Lake



Great Slave Lake



Boating back to Yellowknife under the Midnight Sun

My brother Gord is an avid fisherman, so when we visited Yellowknife, he was sure to book us a fishing guide.



After fly fishing for grayling and a tasty shore lunch, the guide took us into a bay and said, "This is where we take the Americans." It was impossible to cast a line without snagging pike - some of them huge. Even I caught some.

Prelude Lake



Gord and I hung around for a few days at Prelude Lake, northeast of Yellowknife. I think we only caught that one little fish, but managed to recuperate after a 3 day drive from Edmonton, and rest up for same drive back.

Evelyn Falls / Hay River / Fort Providence



On the road between the communities of Hay River and Fort Providence, is a scenic spot known as Evelyn Falls. Great spot to spend some time fishing, except for the lack of fish.



Hay River



Mackenzie River at Ft. Providence

There is now a bridge across the Mackenzie River, but until recently, the ferry at Fort Providence was the only link on the road to Yellowknife.

If you have your health, and you were born in
Canada, and you still aren't happy – then even
God can't help you – He's tried His best