

Kate & Jim's Travels with Charles

Episode #15 – Ton of Fun in Edmonton!

Our friends John and Glen kindly invited us to stay with them in their beautiful house for a couple of days, in Edmonton. We were their first houseguests since December 2019, and boy did they make up for lost time!

We were greeted with a fabulous array of treats in their lovely back yard - including Aperol Spritzes!



That was followed by Surf & Turf (not shown – it disappeared too quickly) and Jim's favourite, Lemon Meringue Pie, made lovingly by John himself. (He's not just a great composer, he makes a pie of operatic proportions!)



Offering us that, as well as a whole bedroom and a full-sized bathtub/shower, free laundry facilities AND the entertainment of two adorable dogs, and they ran the risk that we'd never leave!

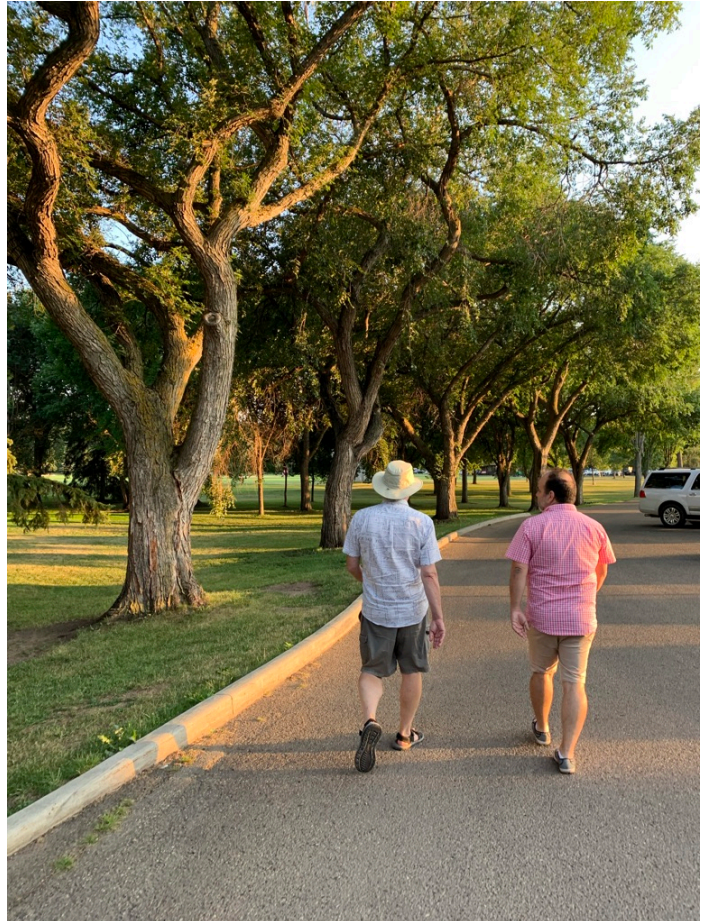


On top of that, they were excellent hosts and tour guides.

The first evening, John took us for a “short” walk into the river valley, which was really beautiful, if longer than we had anticipated.

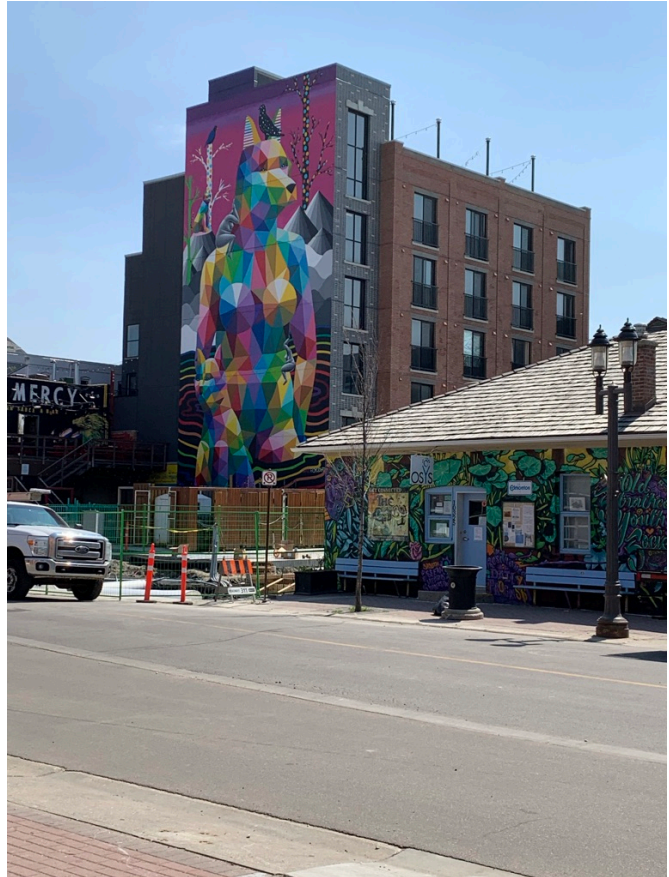


So we walked off our
lemon meringue pie
before we even ate it.



The next day we got a fantastic guided tour of the downtown area, which is so vibrant.

We started off in the area where they hold the Fringe Theatre Festival. Unlike Toronto, Edmonton has a very real home for the Fringe, with a number of theatres created specifically for the Fringe (although they're used throughout the year as well.) That was pretty impressive. We could imagine how exciting it would be to be part of the festival maybe next year?

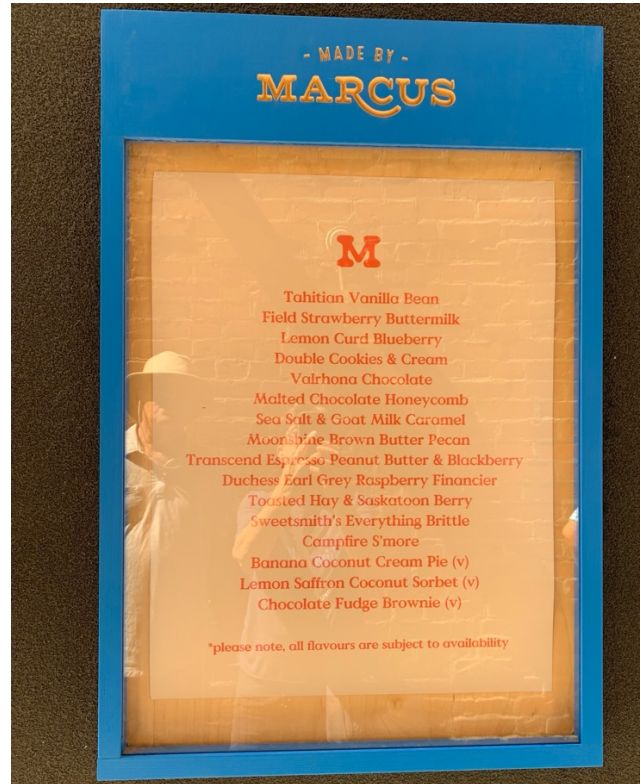




We walked around this very cool downtown district with great cafes and shops.



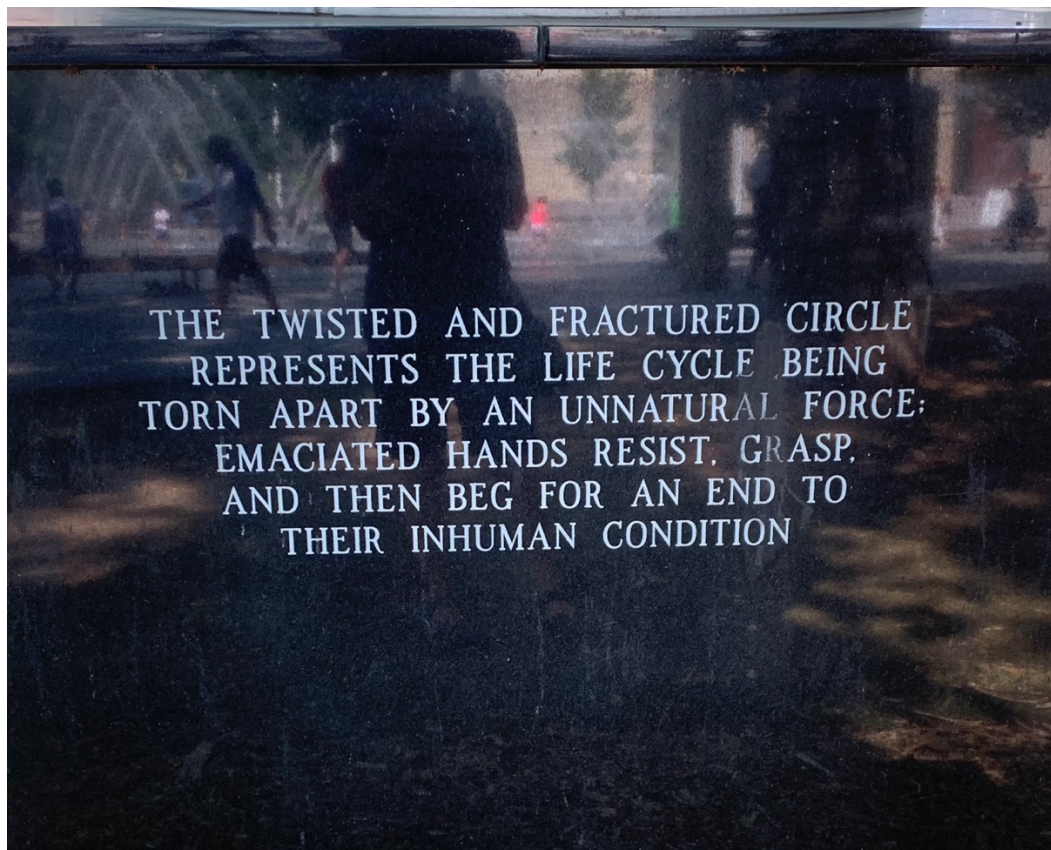
A high point was finding Made by Marcus, one of the best ice cream shops we've been in. (And we've been in a lot!) I had a scoop of the Sea Salt & Goat Milk Caramel and a scoop of Malted Chocolate Honeycomb. OMG!! (Fortunately, we had lots more walking to do.)



We went to the centre of the city where all the official buildings are.

The Taste of Edmonton was on, but we'd already had our ice cream, so we chose instead to walk around and see more. And there's was lots to see. It's modern and welcoming and full of energy.





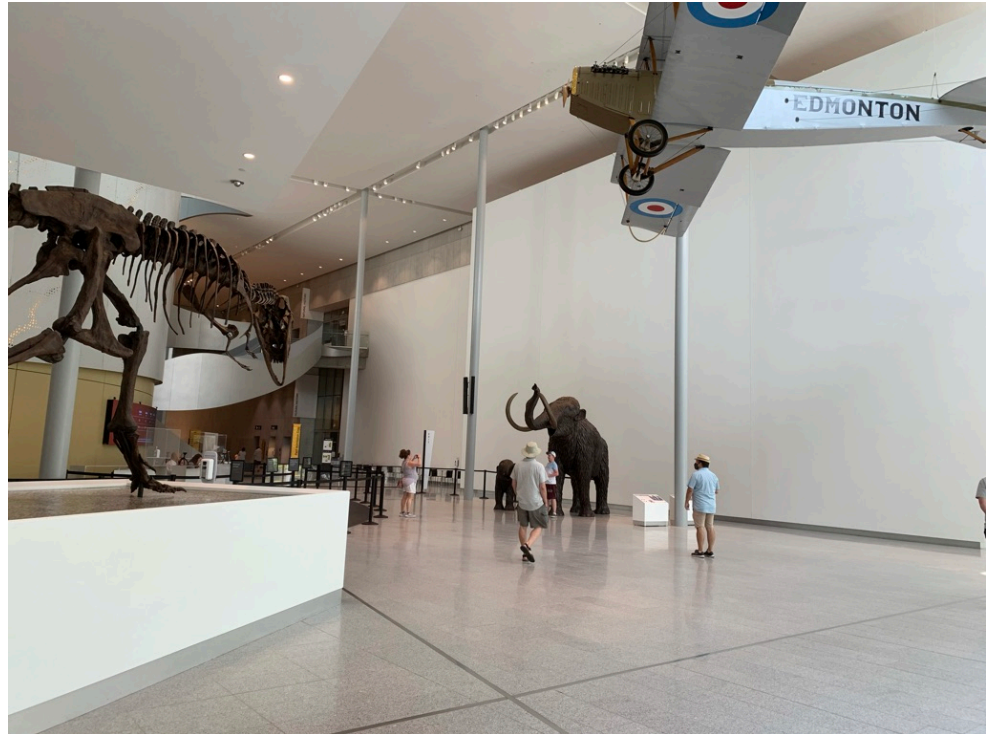
The Winspear Centre has featured many of John Estacio's musical works.



And the Citadel Theatre has featured some of Jim's works.



We dropped into the museum which had a pretty impressive entrance area, pulling together disparate eras.



And the downtown library was huge and full of fun and engaging opportunities for kids - and adults - to explore and learn.





Just a reminder, this is the library!

The whole downtown is very modern and full of things to experience – if you can get there! The construction there is everywhere – mostly because of the introduction of an LRT. We finally made our way to the Hotel Macdonald, CP Hotel that overlooks the river, and we sat out on their terrace for a refreshing beverage.



Believe it or not, all of these drinks are non-alcoholic!



We ended the evening with a lovely concert by members of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's brass section. It was so nice to hear live music and the setting was perfect.



All in all, it was another 5-star experience. And did I mention the cute dogs?



They're lucky we left!