

Kate & Jim's Travels with Charles

Episode #19 – “Breaking News: Strange “Turn” of Events

Apologies for the terrible puns you are about to receive, but it could be the medication....

Yesterday morning, we were driving across Saskatchewan, after a nice stay in Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park in the Lake Diefenbaker area. Along the way, we decided it was time to gas up.

I told Jim I would do the fill-up, as he'd been doing most of them throughout this trip, and Charles does like his diesel.

If you look closely at this picture I grabbed from the internet, you might notice that there's kind of a concrete platform around the fill-up area. You might not notice that there's about a 3-4 inch drop on the outside of the platform, to the right.



Unfortunately *I* didn't notice it either, and when I stepped down from the van expecting to land on flat ground, I landed right on the edge and my ankle went right over.

As did I.

I heard a bit of a crack, and felt a sharp pain. I could tell it wasn't good.

An hour or so later, we arrived at the Emergency Department of the Five Hills Health Region in Moose Jaw.



By the time I was
looked at, my
ankle looked like
this:



Upon closer inspection, it looked like this:



My friend Dorcas
Beaton can explain
what that means, but I
was right, it isn't good.

Shortly after that, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr. Kristen Pugh gave me a very thorough explanation of what had happened to my fibula, and what my options were. When she told me what might happen if she put it in a boot or a cast and left it until we got back to Toronto, I gave her my approval to screw a plate in place to stabilize the broken bone. "Screw it!" I said.

Jim got to see me being wheeled off in this fetching outfit. (Blue has always been my favourite colour.)



About 3 hours later, I could feel my legs again. They'd given me an epidural, so for a couple of hours I could empathize with paraplegics and amputees. It was a very strange feeling!

When I was stable, we were told I could leave the hospital. So we set off, with a new "cast" member!



Everyone there was very kind and efficient and helpful.

By odd coincidence, they moved me to the kids' level to recover in post-op, so I felt right at home, with all kinds of animated characters on the walls.

When the nurses found out I worked in kids TV, they covered my IV wound with a band-aid from their own department.



As you can imagine, this is going to have a serious impact on the next “leg” of our journey. For example, I haven’t taken a single photo today!

I have painkillers for the next couple of days, (although while they seem to be reducing my pain level, they’re simultaneously upping my “pun” level, for which I apologize.)

Jim is being a trooper, picking up all the duties I used to perform. Sadly, he also seems to have picked up the weird pun virus. This morning he suggested I end this story by proclaiming that we give Moose Jaw’s Five Hills Health Region Five Stars on “Trip” Advisor.

We were back on the road today, although only for a short while. As we’re down to one driver, we’ll be reducing the number of hours we travel each day. Also, I’m still in some pain and sitting still seems to be the best medicine.

Our goal is to get back home as soon as possible without pushing it. “The scenic route” will have to wait till next time.

We *were* planning to see the Moose Jaw Tunnels and then stay at the Temple Garden Spa to soak in the famous thermal waters there. Gone.

Likely gone, as well, is Winnipeg's famous Museum of Human Rights, depending on how I'm feeling. We suspect we could get a loaner wheelchair if we feel up to doing the tour. We'll see.



But even though we'll have to pass by historical and beautiful sites in Manitoba and Ontario, we realize this trip has been stupendous, and we're incredibly lucky to have experienced all that we have in the last six weeks.

And, we WILL be back. Because of course, Have PUN, Will Travel!

(I'm SO sorry!)

Love,
Kate & Jim
Jim & Kate

P.S. On the plus side (??), I'll have more time, theoretically to focus on finishing the remaining blogs.