

## Trip 2 – Episode #61: The End of One Adventure...

Just as we embark on our next trip, I'm finally wrapping up the last part of our U.S. adventure. The last couple of weeks were busy and fun for us, but not quite as blog-worthy as the previous 60 blogs.

After leaving Baltimore, we continued north and east, with plans to stop in on friends and family along the way.

Geographically, our first stop should have been New Jersey, for a visit with more family, but timing didn't work out, so we blew through New Jersey ...



... crossed the George Washington Bridge, which was kind of harrowing in Charles ...





... and then drove out to visit friends in East Hampton on Long Island, which was mostly less harrowing than crossing the George Washington Bridge. It was quaint and picturesque, and fully of spring colours.













What made it a little harrowing is that several of the roads on the way to our friends' house had overpasses that were not as high as Charles is. So, we had to take quite a circuitous route, and were relieved when we came to this railroad crossing, because it meant we'd followed the directions properly.



Our friends Mark and Lori made us feel very comfortable in their home, and I would've taken a photo of it, but I couldn't fit it all in my frame!

This is us in their glorious back yard.





They drove us around and into town where we enjoyed a great dinner and had lots of fun catching up.



The next day, we retraced our steps, heading back toward New Jersey, and got caught in a huge traffic jam on the Long Island Expressway.

This was our view for about 2 hours, as we inched forward a mile to the exit.





Despite the jam, we managed to get to the restaurant in time to join my Aunt Mary, my cousins Katie and Ted (yes, it's true) and all but one of their kids. It was great to see them all.



Next stop was in Connecticut...





Which required us crossing the much less stressful Tappan Zee Bridge.





More quaintness...



And the sea!





We met up with our friend Tina and had a lovely walk along the beach near her home and then went to a great little seafood place that was just excellent.







It had been too long since we'd seen each other.



The next day, it was gray and rainy. But we were on the road again, bound for Boston, to visit with Jim's daughter Courtenay.

I have no idea what this sign says, but presumably it's letting us know we're somewhere in Massachusetts. (Jim took this photo. I'm just saying.)



We have no photos of Boston, because most of the time, I was watching out for cars that were parked on both sides of the narrow one-way streets as we were trying to pick Courtenay up.

Then she directed us to her friends' place north of Boston in the Nahant Beach area, which was really nice.





We met her friends who were also very nice and very pregnant (well, one of them was), and had a lovely visit at their amazing new home and took NO photos. (You'd think that'd be pretty automatic by now, wouldn't you??)

Then we drove with Courtenay to Salem for a great dinner. Salem is an interesting looking town, which we unfortunately didn't get a chance to explore nearly as much as we would have liked.









We couldn't help noticing that they play up the witch thing quite a bit, even though, as we all know, they weren't actually witches. But, you know, tourism.









However, I think the good witches were looking out for us.

By 9:00 that night, after dropping Courtenay off at her friends' place, we hadn't been able to find a place to overnight in the vicinity. None of the campgrounds had opened for the season and Walmart and Home Depot had "No Overnight Parking" signs in their lots. It was the first time in our five months of traveling that we'd found ourselves in this predicament.

Finally, thanks to a great app called iOverlander, we found a parking lot in downtown Salem that allowed overnight parking (although apparently they didn't allow loitering!)



We were a little worried that a police officer might knock on our door at 3:00am and tell us we had to move. But that didn't happen. And when we got up in the morning, we discovered we were steps away from a very cool coffee shop. Thanks Good Witches!

After a coffee and a croissant, we continued heading toward Canada.

We hadn't realized that none of the campgrounds in upstate New York would have opened for the season. So we decided the best thing to do was to keep on driving till we got to Canada.

It was a longer than usual drive, but we made it. And we had a few nice views along the way.













And then, suddenly, there we were in Canada! (No photos crossing the border because it kind of snuck up on us and we were trying to figure out how many bottles of wine were allowed to bring across the border.)

And what exotic place did we find for our last night on the road?



Yup the Thousand Island Casino! Where we could park for free. There was even a sign that said "RV Parking This Way".



Anyone who's ever driven from Gananoque to Toronto knows there's NOTHING photo-worthy during that trip. Except maybe this...



And this...





And after five months on the road, it was great to be able to take this shot of our family all together for dinner in Uxbridge.



What an amazing journey we had, with so many different kinds of sights, people and adventures.

Throughout the whole trip, and as it came to an end and we looked back, we felt so fortunate to have been able to experience it all, and in such an elegant travelling home.

Now, just over a year after first meeting Charles, we can't think of a better choice we could have made. And as we embark on our next adventure, we're excited to see where Charles takes us next.

To be continued....