

Trip 3 – Episode #9: A Prince Among Islands, Part 1

After a wonderful stay in Nova Scotia, and our happy place in Sunset Watch, we headed along the northern shore toward The Fixed Link to Prince Edward Island.



To nobody's surprise, it was a lovely, picturesque drive.





And then we left the Nova Scotia shore...



And crossed the Northumberland Strait...



And after almost 13 km of driving over the strait...



We saw the distinctive red beaches ...



... and finally touched down on Prince Edward Island.



I've always felt that Prince Edward Island looks like it was art directed. Everything is so perfect, every tree, hill and hay bale placed just so. And our views as we drove toward Charlottetown didn't do anything to change my opinion.





Our friend Charlotte (named after the town) Moore invited us to park in her driveway, which was a tight squeeze, but it worked out really well. And Charlotte is a terrific host!



Because, by law, anyone who goes to PEI has to see Anne of Green Gables, and also because Charlotte was in the production, we joined the audience that night. Of course Charlotte was great as Rachel Lynde, and we enjoyed maintaining the tradition.



The next day, we left Charlotte and her town for a couple of days and scouted out beautiful spots to park, mostly on the north shore of the island.

It was sunny and hot, so it seemed everyone else on the island had the same idea. Which meant we did a lot of searching to find an available spot. It wasn't such a hardship.





We followed this road, hoping it might lead us to a beach. And eventually it did.



The colours of the sand dunes and the variety of greens in the grasses and trees is, I think, unique to PEI. And even if it's not unique, it's just so darned beautiful.



As are the beaches themselves.





We enjoyed a lovely walk along the shore, but we were in search of a place where we could park Charles, look out over the water, and get some writing done (or at least attempt/pretend to). So, we got back to Charles and continued our search.



We found places for boats to park.



And lots of fields of gold and green.





As the evening drew near, we noted some potential spots for the next day, and found a campground for the night.



Which wasn't remarkable in any way, except for this sign on its restroom:



The next day was gray and gloomy, which we didn't mind because we figured it meant nobody else would be taking up the parking spots by the beach. So, we went out in search of the perfect spot. Even when it's gray and gloomy, PEI is beautiful.







And eventually, we found our spot.



It had a spectacular view and we were practically the only ones there.





There were some locals, who weren't so thrilled that we showed up.



Eventually the clouds cleared and, even though it meant more people arrived, we still had our spot and it was perfect.



We left in search of dinner in North Rustico, a place that defines picturesque, as does the road to it.







We managed to get into the Blue Mussel, one of the top-rated restaurants in PEI.

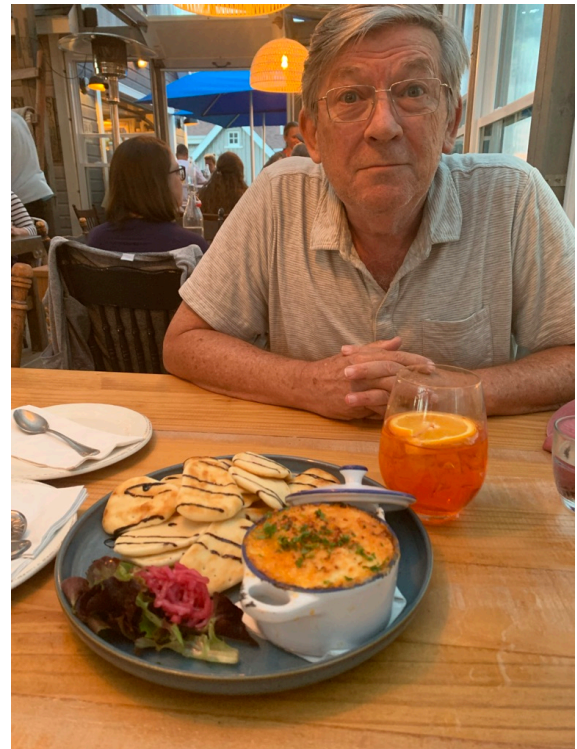
And as we waited for our meal, the clouds came in.



Other parts of the island apparently had violent thunderstorms and hail, but we just got a great show.



And a great meal.



And afterward, I got one of my favourite shots.



After dinner, we went back to a spot that we had picked out earlier, where there were no signs saying we couldn't park overnight. It was so dark we couldn't really see where we were, but we settled into a spot and slept undisturbed.

And the next morning, we discovered where we were. And so will you, when you read Part 2.