

### Trip 3 – Episode #10: A Prince Among Islands, Part 2

I awoke the morning after our “boondocking” night, somewhere in Prince Edward Island National Park near Cavendish, in time to catch a glimpse of the sunrise.



A little while later, I went out to explore more of our overnight camping spot, and discovered we weren't alone, although I suspected the others hadn't been there all night.



When I walked a little closer to the precipice, I saw what I guessed were the two fishermen who had parked near us earlier that morning.



Looking the other way, I found a path that begged me to follow it.

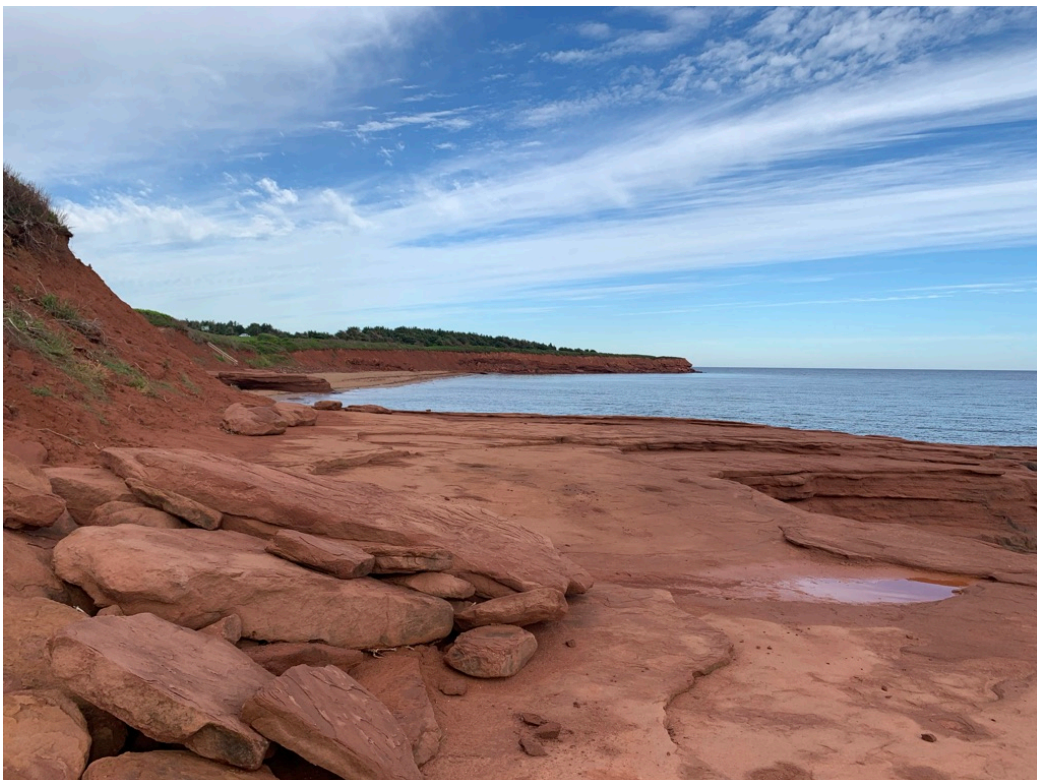
Honestly, if you saw this path, wouldn't you follow it?



Fortunately I did, and it led me to this.



And this.





All of which supported my theory that some supernatural artist had created this place. Then I discovered that a different kind of large-scale artist had been at work there.



And then I met an actual artist, although she was from New Brunswick. Her name was Danielle Hogan and she was painting a watercolour on this beautiful beach. We struck up a wonderful conversation, which lasted about an hour!



And later, I discovered that she'd posted the resulting painting. Pretty nice. (If you're interested, she's at <https://www.daniellehogan.com/collect/pei>)



After we finally parted, I took the path back to Charles – and Jim, who wondered what had become of me!



Then we left our overnight home, and drove past more perfectly designed fields and homesteads...



Honestly, is there any place on Earth that looks like this?



After that lovely drive, we got back to Charlottetown, a.k.a. Charlotte's town.



Charlotte took us to her favourite restaurant, Slaymaker & Nichols Gastro House, where we had a great meal, even though, as Jim points out, they had very odd-looking, but tasty bread.





It was a dramatic night in town, weatherwise...



... and in the more theatrical sense, as we went back to the Confederation Centre of the Arts to see their newest big musical, Tell Tale Harbour.



It was good fun, although everyone agrees, it's still a work in progress. But we enjoyed seeing a number of people we (mostly Jim) knew in the cast.



The next morning, Charlotte suggested we go to the Downtown Farmers' Market, which allowed us to spend some time appreciating this elegant, lively town.







The market was casual and friendly and full of artsy and musical people.







This was interesting – seeing how people completed the sentence “Before I die I want to...”



Some of the answers were sweet. “Help people.” “Watch my grandkids grow.” Some were heart wrenching. “Have a friend” “Find permanent housing.” Some were a little baffling. “Kiss my brother.” “Go to Ontario.”

It was a lovely, relaxed way to spend a Sunday early afternoon. And then we went back to Charlotte’s and prepared for a wonderful late afternoon gathering.

Jim has a lot of theatre friends who live or are working in Charlottetown. He realized that we couldn't meet up with each of them individually, so he suggested to Charlotte that we invite them to her place for a barbecue. Charlotte thought it was a great idea, except she didn't have a barbecue. No problem, we said. Charles has one!

What we hadn't realized was that Charlotte is the consummate party host, and it all worked out splendidly.

In fact, it was so great, that I forgot to take pictures until the very last couple was leaving.

Charlotte sent me the two photos she'd taken. So here's the only evidence of what was one of the great parties.







It was fun for Jim to reconnect with a lot of old friends, and for me to meet them.

One of the many amazing things about the party was that, Robin Craig, Judy Marshak and Kate Lynch were there, and we found out that the next morning, they were going to do their first readthrough of their play, *The Two Horsewomen*. Robin, who wrote the play, told us that when she started working on the play, many years ago, Jim had been the first person to encourage her to continue. So, it was particularly meaningful that we were there when it was about to have its world premiere. They invited us to come to the readthrough. We had planned to leave in the morning, but we decided to stay a little longer, and sit in on the readthrough. Serendipity strikes again!

It was a total delight and we felt honoured to have been there to provide the laughs - of which there were many!



As I write this, they had their opening last night. I expect that the reviews will be raves!  
What a thrill to be there at that special time.

And what a perfect way to end our stay on this Perfectly Excellent Island.

Like the red residue that clung to Charles' tires and doorsteps, our visit to Prince Edward Island would linger with us for some time.

