

## Lana and Dwight Arnold Explore New Scotland

Albeit the plane ride there involves 3 different planes and takes most of the day due to connections, as the first stop in Nova Scotia is an even smaller town than Tallahassee, Halifax, N.S. The airport is an easy 30 minute ride to the downtown fun area where the famous Citadel (fort) holds vigilance high above the harbor. Hotels in the downtown area provide walking access to restaurants, shops, the waterfront and historic sites. Walking down to the waterfront is steep, but coming back up may be a challenge that provides time to stop and admire the view. A catered dinner inside the Citadel was preceded by cannon firing lessons and a demonstration by fully uniformed military attachés with kilts, bagpipes, polished brass and plumes. A special treat of fireworks displays happened as it was Canada Day, July 1, a national holiday.

On the third day of a 12 day trip it was an early start to visit the often photographed Peggy's Cove with its iconic lighthouse. Next was a quick trip up the road to Old Town Lunenburg, an UNESCO World Heritage site. The waterfront houses and businesses are the perfect example of colorfully painted maritime architecture. Lunenburg is the home town of the tour guide for this trip, thus he provides many inside stories of the town.

The next day included a final Halifax City Tour and visit to the Ellis Island of Canada, Pier 21 where a TV station camera crew and reporter put the tour on the 5 o'clock news asking why visit Canada on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Onward to Moncton, New Brunswick, after a picnic lunch in a lush city park near a pink dogwood tree in full bloom. In the evening there was an elegant 5 star dinner of lobster and flaming dessert.

In the morning it was off to Hopewell Rocks, off the Bay of Fundy, to experience the flowerpot rock formations at high tide and returning later to see the flower pots appear as the tide receded over a six hour period. After dinner there was a chance to see the famous tide roll up the river at a breakneck speed that allows kayakers to surf along.

Think of the 8 mile long bridge in the Florida Keys and get an idea of the Confederation Bridge, spanning 8 miles of blue water to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Driving through the island's potato fields an appreciation for all the French fries that are eaten in the States was given. Of course P.E.I. is the home of Anne of Green Gables, and no trip there is complete without a trip to the home of the author and her gravesite. Lobster again for dinner with all the home cooked rolls and pie that can be stuffed in!

If a highlight can be singled out, then it is Cape Breton Island which is reached by a lovely, lighthouse filled ferry ride. Traveling along the highlands landscape of mountains and beaches, Ingonish is the home of the Keltic Lodge, a Tudor chateau nestled on a cliff surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. Nearby the Highlands Links Golf Course is ranked by *Golf Magazine* as one of Canada's top courses. To top it all off again, lobster for two nights in a row! (Or you could choose a steak, lamb chops or fish.) Activities at the Keltic Lodge included a nature presentation on the birds and animals in the area by a local naturalist, a guided nature walk through the woods with glimpses of the water and waves, a Kitchen Party, cooking and tasting of guess what? Lobster! Clams! Salmon! and a walking tour of the historic property. A day trip took the bus along the Cabot Trail with a stop at the beach to wade in the refreshingly cool water and peek at red jellyfish. At lunch an Arcadian fiddler and his granddaughter played and danced. Then a stop to see the rug "hookers" allowed a visit to a museum of this art.

Leaving the outstanding Keltic Lodge property was tough, but there was more fun at The Gaelic College to hear a professor explain the music and dancing of the area. A demonstration of how to make a Scottish

kilt and its purposes was fascinating. Later, the Alexander Graham Bell Museum was filled with his little and well known inventions, as well as the story of his life.

The last night was in Liscombe at the Lodge where we enjoyed salmon and cocktails as well as you guessed it, a lobster dinner! (There were abundant bowls of chowder along the way as well as lobster roll sandwiches.) But the trip was not over. On the trip to the Halifax airport there was a stop at the Heritage Village Memory Lane where there were kittens to pet, roosters crowing, lambs grazing, maple cake to eat and a gift shop of Nova Scotian made crafts and other items from the old days of the 40's.

Of course the time flew by, but there are many photographs by which to remember the cool, green, water kissed land and the many new friends from all over the U.S. Beannachd leibh. (Goodbye in Gaelic!)