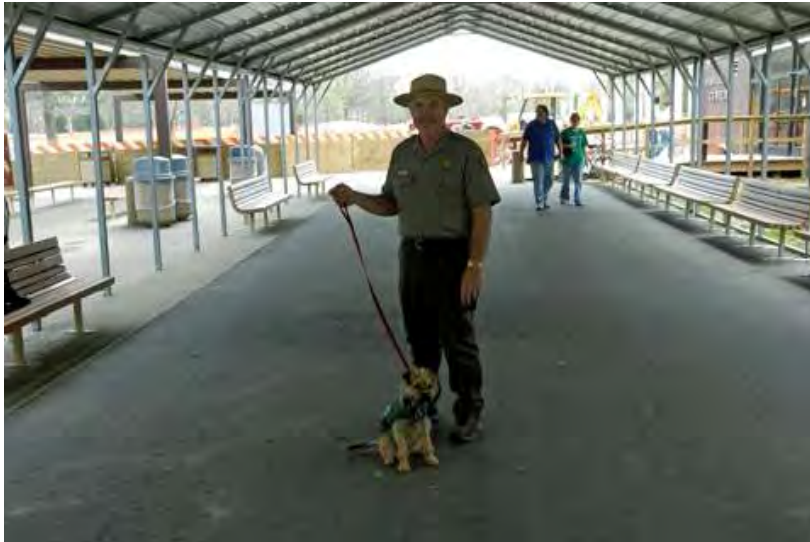


Thursday April  
10, 2008



As we are in Kentucky Cave country we decided to check out some caves. With Percy in his green Dog Guide Jacket we headed down the road to Mammoth

Cave National Park. We were taken to the Ranger office to receive special clearance for the dog and his "stuff".

The Rangers were very friendly and asked lots of questions about Percy and his future role as a hearing ear dog.

As we headed off to the first cave, Percy was greeted by many children who were off on Spring break.



The first Cave was at the bottom of a long hill.



We walked down a long set of stairs into the cool dimly lit cavern.







Inside we saw lots of interesting rocks and marvelled at how flat the ceiling was.





When we ascended the stairs the sun seemed very bright after the darkness of the cave.

We were greeted by a lady ranger who was curious about Percy's adventure in the cave.



After lunch at the hotel Coffee Shop we boarded a bus for the next cave tour. Ranger Rick cautioned us about the many hazards that we would encounter. We headed down into the depths with our trusty Dog Guide at our heels.





The stairs were made of stainless steel - 300 steps - \$3000 (EACH!). They were very narrow with lots of rocks jutting out overhead. Mike had to carry Percy for part of the ascent.



We all gathered in one of the caves large rooms for a lecture about how the caves were formed.

Percy got rather upset when a baby started to cry. Both Percy and the baby settled when we brought them together.



As we travelled on there were plenty of oohs and awes as we came face to face with mother nature's marvels.

We stopped again for a talk about the many creatures who make their homes in these caves. These include bats, bugs and fish with no eyes.





We stopped frequently to catch our breath and admire the beautiful rocks







Mike and Percy  
took a side tour  
to see the frozen  
Niagara.

## Friday April 11, 2008

At 10 am we headed out to the Homestead Park in Radcliffe. We arrived at 1245 and found a very old, run down park that has certainly seemed better days many years ago. We were directed to a site with fresh gravel, a good thing as it was cold and wet. We had to go out and purchase a longer extension cord as the services were quite far back from the pad. We chose this park because of its proximity to things that we were interested in seeing so decided to stay as planned and make the best of it.



**Saturday April 12, 2008**

Many of you may not know that Maureen does the writing of the log. But, since she didn't go with me (Mike) to Fort Knox

and the Coke Museum, I am left to explain what I saw.



Fort Knox was a bit disappointing - they won't let you in (due to 9/11), but I did get a few pictures.

Matt did some training here, I was hoping to see a bit more.



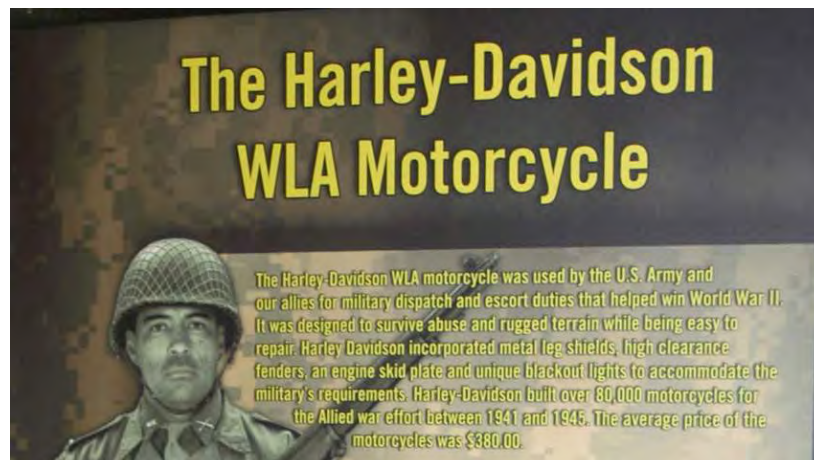
Notice the security around the Federal Reserve - yes it's a golf course.



I went down to road to the *George Patton Museum*. They let me in, and it was free. The grounds are fantastic. There are examples of tanks from before WW 1, right up to the present. (a few 'choppers as well)



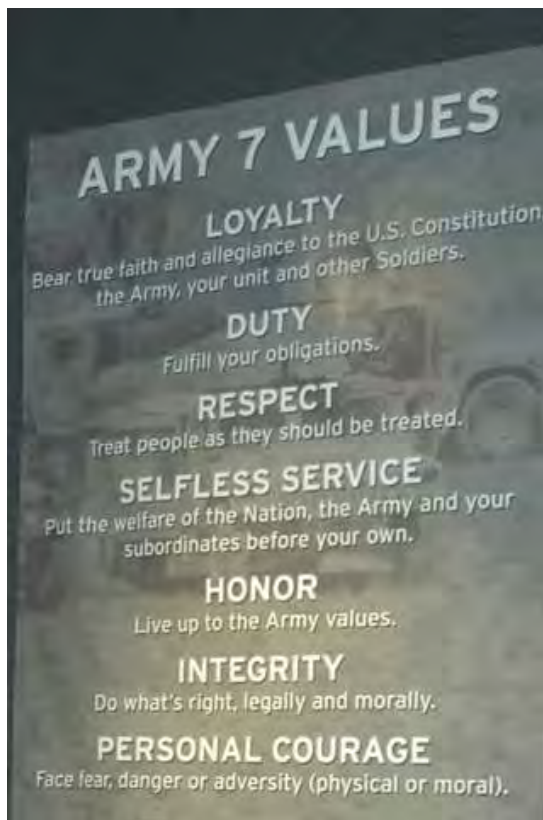
I didn't know these details about the Harley Davidson motorcycle.







These two posters caught my eye  
-  
much of what is written could be  
used in our every day lives.





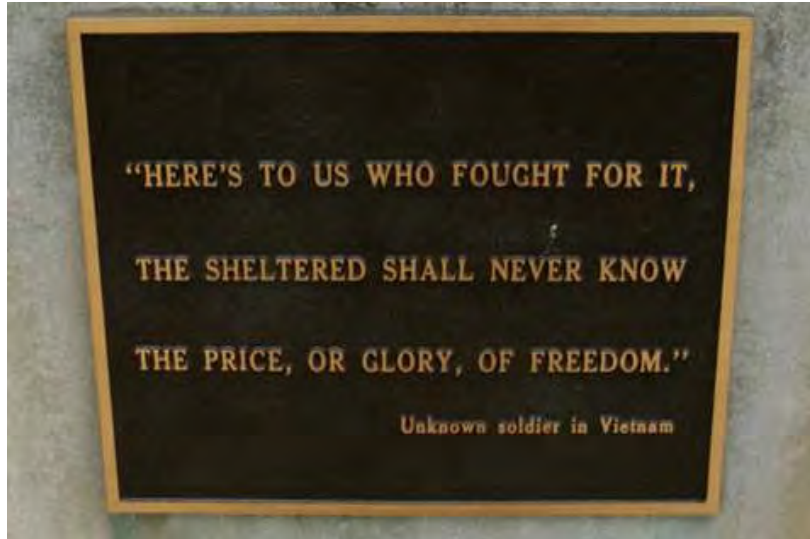
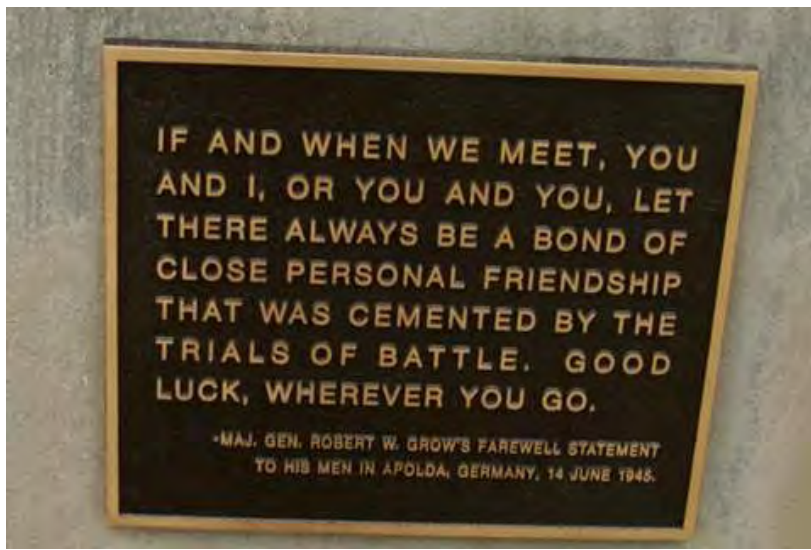
Inside the museum there were many displays - some of the tanks were from Germany, Japan, and North Korea. The simulators were an interesting exhibit, as well as the "cut-away".





Outside there is a large Memorial Garden.  
It recognizes all the American forces who were involved in  
tank warfare.





I especially liked the quote on one stone.



Next - the Coke Museum.

This place had just about every item that was produced by and for Coca Cola.

The family who started it were the 6<sup>th</sup> bottler of Coke in the US.



Most of the Coke posters were of Women - and some were quite "risqué" for their time. .







Our image of Santa started as advertising from Coke.



Even Norman Rockwell was involved in the promotion of Coke products

Here's the 1951 Coke calendar - looks just like Maureen, and R2D2 had a few kind words to say about Coke





And more!



I think they should have put a disclaimer on this, "No human was hurt or killed during the creation of this van."



After taking a picture of this truck, I heard some music,  
"I'd like to give the world a coke."  
There was a video playing in the back.  
It was the history of Coke - I bought one - great stuff!



I mentioned to one of the clerks that I had taught that song to my students when I was a music teacher. He took me around back and showed me where the schools come for tours - it's the 1898 Coke display and it still works.





I took these pictures outside the Coke museum. Not sure who, or why they were upset - I didn't go back inside to ask. (LOL)



## Sunday April 13, 2008

Very wet and cold. We stayed inside for most of the day. Maureen worked on her scrapbooking and sewing.

## Monday April 14, 2008

We left Radcliffe at 920 am. It was cold (3C) and wet.

We took a detour to see the Jimmy Beam's American Outpost.



Kentucky is well known for making Bourbon. In 1795 James Beam developed a recipe for Bourbon.





After seven generations the Beam family continues to oversee the production of the number one Bourbon whiskey in America.



Displays showed how the bourbon is mashed, fermented, distilled and aged. They have 51 warehouses filled with oak barrels that have been charred to give it the unique taste and amber colour.

That's about 1,900,000 barrels (53 gallons each).



On the way to the Beam house we stopped to admire a wildly painted horse.

It was Kentucky Derby time.

There were horse statues and pictures everywhere we went.

Inside the beautiful house we had a chance to taste the different Bourbons.



There was also a scale model of the distillery.





On the way back to our rig we checked out one of the warehouses.



(If you look closely you can see our rig parked in front)



Cincinnati Ohio was just down the road. There was lots of traffic, buildings and construction but we made it through OK.



They sure like to build BIG Churches!







Arrived at the Poor Farmers RV Resort. We were given a very nice spot that was easy to get in and out of. We did not have to unhook the truck so we could get away early the next morning.





**Tuesday April 15, 2008**

Left the Poor Farmer under sunny skies and 7C.

We got a big shock when we stopped for fuel. Diesel was now up to \$4.05 per gallon.



We passed a place called Cygnet. Wonder if they have cyg.net internet?



Shortly after crossing the Ohio River traffic came to a crawl due to an accident.







We were soon on our way again and arrived at the Camp Lord Willing campground near Monroe Michigan about 2 pm.

This was a very pretty campground with canals running through it so almost everyone gets a view of the water. It was a bit pricey (\$30 with the Good Sams Discount) but worth the extra bucks.

## Wednesday April 16, 2008

Maureen got all of the laundry done. The laundry room was small but very clean and had a beautiful view.

Percy enjoyed long walks around the campground.

Sorry - we forgot to take pictures.

## Thursday April 17, 2008

Left Monroe at 8:15 am and headed for the Canadian border crossing at Port Huron. There was no line-up at customs and after a brief look at our list of declared items we were welcomed home for the summer.

Stopped in Sarnia and had lunch with Magy and Tom. Percy enjoyed playing with their dog, Alaska.

We arrived in Milverton at 5 pm where Lion President Bud found us a perfect camp spot beside his workshop.

At the Milverton Lions meeting we described many of our adventures. Percy was on his best behaviour during the meeting.

## Friday April 18, 2008

After breakfast at Ginny's with Ruth and Bud we drove Cambridge for the A15 Lions Convention. As there are not any campgrounds open this early the convention organizers had made arrangements for us to park behind the mall next door to the Holiday Inn. Unfortunately the police did not know that we were allowed, so we got a parking ticket but it was still less than a camp spot and it was very convenient for us to be so close.

The convention had a Hillbilly Theme in honour of District Governor Bill from Exeter, home of the Road Kill Cafe.

Lion IPDG Nancy Pearl was the emcee.



The Milverton Lions banner was marched in.



Unfortunately the Stratford Lions banner did not make it this year.



The Lions who were running for office put on some very interesting demonstrations.



Lion Todd got the nod for Region Chair.

In keeping with A15 tradition, the Campbell gavel was passed to each PDG in order.



The conventions was declared open (in record time) and the parties began, as we enjoyed the hospitality rooms put on by the Lions running for district office.



## Saturday April 19, 2008

We attended various meetings during the day.

PDG Mike worked on the credentials desk with the help of Percy.





Lion Trudy joined us for a Hill Billy lunch.



Percy met Lion Carl Young who is campaigning for International Director.



Following a wine and cheese reception we enjoyed a wonderful formal banquet.

The two Maureens were happy to see each other again.



Lion Mike was a lucky guy as he was the only male at our table made up of Woolwich Lions.





PID Ross Thorfinson was the guest speaker.  
He gave a very moving talk about how Lions make the world a better place.





Afterwards Lion Ross and his wife Lion Linda posed for us in front of the PDG banner that we presented to A15 last year.



## Sunday April 20, 2008

After the Voting and the Memorial Service we packed up and headed to Farmer Joe's place and parked just down the lane to where Martin and Heather are living.

Keith was very happy to see his friend Percy again.



Martin treated us to a home cooked pot roast dinner.

## **Monday April 21, 2008**

Spent the day helping Martin and Heather to fix and clean up the house.

## **Tuesday April 22, 2008**

More cleaning up.

## **Wednesday April 23, 2008**

Nana took care of Keith while Heather wrote an exam.

## **Thursday April 24, 2008**

We spent the day in Milverton - Doctors appointments, banking etc.

## **Friday April 25, 2008**

Mike worked with Martin on outside chores.

## **Saturday April 26, 2008**

Mike and Maureen drove to Zurich to visit Francine and Mike. They treated us to a wonderful pork dinner and we caught up on the winter happenings.

## **Sunday April 27, 2008**

Spent most of the day working on Income taxes.

Janet and Joe joined us for dinner.

## **Monday April 28, 2008**

Back to Milverton for haircuts, bank meeting and dentist appointments. Look Ma no Cavities!

Had to drive to Stratford to put more time on the Petrocan cell phone. Unfortunately for us the Milverton Petrocan is now an Esso, and the Listowel station just reopened and did not know how to give us what we needed to add more time.

## **Tuesday April 29, 2009**

More Income tax work. The good news is that we will both be getting refunds!!!