

Thursday April 29, 2011



Mike's appointment at the hospital took quite a long time, as he had to visit multiple departments and wait in line at each one.

Back at the Science Hill parking lot it was time to rest up and get ready for the surgery next week. The rain just kept coming, so no chance of moving up to our lot any time soon.

Tuesday May 3, 2011



Mike reported to Stratford General Hospital at 8 am where Dr. Potaschnick removed his old worn out hip and replaced it with a new shiny titanium one. At noon the Surgeon reported to Maureen that the operation took a bit longer than normal, as Mike has very thick muscles and it is a long way to Hipperary.

After the operation Maureen waited patiently for the first 3 hours, but then got a little antsy when the operating room staff kept reporting that the patients were being held in recovery until rooms upstairs were available.

At 5 o'clock Maureen got a cell phone call from Mike's nurse asking why she was not in the room where Mike had been waiting for almost three hours. Too bad that patient confidentiality has made it impossible for nursing staff to keep track of family and friends

Wednesday May 4, 2011

Unfortunately Mike twisted his shoulder getting out of bed. The hip was doing great, but the shoulder caused lots of pain and made it difficult to do his therapy.

Maureen and Indee attended the Stratford Lions meeting in the evening.



Randy Pettapiece, Ontario Progressive Conservative Candidate for Perth - Wellington (and a great Lion) was the guest speaker. Randy gave a short talk about his qualifications and his ideas and then answered many questions from the Lions and guests



Randy Pettapiece and Lion Chief Tracey

Thursday May 5, 2011

While Mike continued his therapy at the hospital, Maureen went to watch bowling with the Stratford Lions Blind Bowlers. It was lots of fun and good friendly competition.

Friday May 6, 2011

Mike's shoulder was still causing lots of discomfort, so he had to stay in hospital an extra day. Hip healing well - but using crutches out of the question.

Saturday May 7, 2011

The docs discharged Mike, even though the shoulder was still not good. As the rig will not accommodate a hospital bed, we decided that he should spend some time in respite. Wildwood in St. Marys had a bed, so he moved in the afternoon to a semi-private room.

Monday May 9, 2011

Unfortunately the room at Wildwood was not working out as planned. The hospital bed was not automatic and the roommate was difficult to live with. Mike was not getting much rest and the pain meds for the shoulder were causing lots of problems. Maureen decided that a hospital assessment was needed. Could not find a suitable wheelchair to get Mike into the truck so called for an ambulance to take him the four blocks to St. Marys hospital.

After a long day in emerg he was admitted to a wonderful quiet room at the end of the hall where he got a good night's rest and treatment for his multiple problems.

Tuesday May 10, 2011

Come morning Mike was feeling much better, so Maureen moved him back to Stratford, this time to Anne Hathaway's Retirement home, where an electric hospital bed from Home Health was waiting for him. This was a huge improvement, as Mike had a great private room and the exceptionally helpful staff, including a nurse who lives in Milverton. Now Maureen could get some sleep knowing that Mike was well taken care of.

Wednesday May 11, 2011

The rain has finally let up and the campground is drying up nicely. Jason thinks that we could finally move the rig up to our lot. Yippee

Thursday May 12, 2011

Matthew took the early train from Windsor and Maureen picked him up in St. Marys so he could visit with his Dad and help to move the trailer.

We spent the morning moving the outside stuff to the lot and closing up the rig.

In the afternoon Matt drove Mike to Science Hill to supervise the move.

Jason drove the truck and Matt did all the heavy lifting. Things went quite smoothly and we didn't get stuck!

Friday May 13, 2011

Spent the day getting things set up and back to normal. Matt cut the grass.

Maureen sure is happy to have full power, water and sewer again!

In the evening Matt took the train back home. Thanks for a job well done!

Saturday May 14, 2011

Maureen helped the Lions at the Stratford LINC display. Indee had lots of fun with all the kids.

Then we visited a while with Mike who was recuperating nicely and enjoying all the attention at Anne Hathaway's.

Monday May 16, 2011

Maureen joined Mike for dinner at the Retirement home. The food was delicious. After dinner Maureen went to a planning meeting for Savour Stratford.

Tuesday May 17, 2011

Drove Mike to Milverton to have his stitches removed ☹ all 43 of them. The surgeon says that he gets paid by the inch!

In the afternoon an Occupational Therapist came to the rig to make sure that things were safe for Mike to come ☹home☹

Wednesday May 18, 2011

Maureen drove to New Hamburg to take her Mom to a scheduled dentist appointment. Even though it was a beautiful sunny day, Mom decided that it was not a good day to see the dentist and she insisted on staying in bed. Oh well ☹ better luck next time!

Thursday May 19, 2011

After a visit to Mike ☹ Maureen went to the Lions meeting at the Queens Inn. Happy to see that the club is growing with some young members joining.

Friday May 20, 2011

Maureen was afraid that Mike would not want to leave Anne Hathaway's, but Physio gave him the green light and so we (i.e. Maureen) packed everything up and headed for Science Hill. After 5 moves in 3 weeks, Maureen is happy that this is the last one.

The weather was pretty good for the May 24 long weekend. Mike was happy to get back home, but tired after the move, so Maureen had to work the BBQ! Dinner was a bit crazy!

Wednesday May 25, 2011

We attended the Dundee Wealth Annual Golf Tournament today. This was Indie's last official visit before he goes to school. While Maureen golfed with the Lions, Indie went with Trudy and Mike to take care of the golfers.



The last hole was rained out, but we had a great day followed by a delicious meal.



Monday May 30, 2011

Maureen bought plants today to fill her flower pots. It has been raining again, but the temps are improving.

Tuesday May 31, 2011

Mike had his hip x-rayed today in preparation for his one month post-op check-up. He has been doing his exercises and is recuperating well.

Wednesday June 1, 2011

After a hectic May, Maureen decided to take a "Me Day". Started with a massage at Heal Appeal and then got a haircut at Sensations. New month "new woman

Thursday June 2, 2011

In the morning Mike had his check-up at the hospital and the surgeon declared him fit but not good enough to play golf quite yet.



It was time for Indee to return to Breslau, where he was born, to begin his testing and training that will hopefully turn him into a hearing ear dog. With hugs and tears, Maureen dropped him off and headed back home. On the way she dropped in to see Mom Warner in New Hamburg and then on to Stratford for the Lions meeting.

Friday June 3, 2011

We had our eye-check-ups in the morning. The Physio-Therapist came in the afternoon and discharged Mike from her services. Hip is doing great but the shoulder still needs some work so he will have to see a private therapist for that.

At 5 pm we picked up a rental car and packed it ready for our trip to the Tennessee SOITC Rally. Maureen really had to work hard to get all our linens, towels, pillows, cooking equipment, clothes and dog paraphernalia in one little car. She was missing the Suite before we even left, but we felt that hauling the rig might be a set-back for Mike if he had to crawl around under it.

Saturday June 4, 2011

We headed south bright and early and made our way through Sarnia and Port Huron, down the bumpy Michigan Interstate and into Ohio where we stopped at a hotel just north of Cincinnati for the night. The car was packed so full that Percy had to travel on top of the suitcases and pillows piled in the back seat.

After a short rest we drove to Jungle Jim's where we picked up some liquid libations and snack foods. That turned out to be a really good thing as the rally was in a dry county so liquor was not available there.

Sunday June 5, 2011

We grabbed a quick breakfast from the hotel buffet and arrived in Sevierville by early afternoon. Mike attended the SOITC Board meeting and then it was on to the opening banquet where we feasted on BBQ chicken and ribs.

We saw many of our old friends from both Canada and the US.



The tables were decorated Smokie Mountain style.



There were lots of prizes to be raffled.



Monday June 6, 2011

Registration Day! The boodle bags were awfully heavy!

Tuesday June 7, 2011

Maureen attended a demo on how to take care of the woodwork in our rigs.



Mid-afternoon we boarded buses for a trip to Pigeon Forge. The air conditioning was not working well on the buses so we were melting by the time we arrived at the Dixie Stampede.



get into the building

The staff herded us around to the far side to take a group picture but standing in the hot sun was very uncomfortable so we opted to skip the picture and



After a long wait we enjoyed some pre-dinner entertainment in the "dry" bar.



The meal and the show were excellent with lots of horses, dancing and singing and even some live buffalo.

Wednesday June 8, 2011

While some of the attendees went golfing we took a drive to Gatlinburg and into the Smoky Mountain National Park.

There was some road work on the way. We felt sorry for the workers as it was broiling hot in the sun.



Travelled through some tunnels that were built in the 1930s



The roads were lined with miles and miles of hand cut stones.



The mountains had a smoky look to them



Percy really enjoyed the views



As we climbed higher into the mountains the cloud cover increased and the temperature dropped.



Shortly after we reached the top it started to rain.



Then we drove through Gatlinburg. It looks quite a bit like Branson Missouri with lots of tourist traps.



There is a trolley that will take you around but it was not very busy. There was however plenty of people and many traffic jams.



We have never seen so many kinds of arcades and mini-golf in one place



There are shows around every corner



That evening we went out for dinner with Vicki and Barry.



These guys sure enjoyed their ribs

Thursday June 9, 2011

Maureen went shopping at the Scrapbook Store. It claims to have the largest inventory of scrapping supplies in North America. Maureen was in Scrappers heaven where she found some fantastic deals.

Mike visited with friends

Friday June 10, 2011

Friday morning after a continental breakfast we attended various Suite meetings.

In the evening there was a sit down banquet followed by raffle prizes galore and entertainment.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our Suite Friends at the Rally in Ontario next year ☺ EH!

Saturday June 11, 2011

After breakfast Maureen finished packing up the car and it was off to Paris Tennessee to see Mary and Arthur and Henry Cabot Lodge (the cat).

It was a long drive ☺ we had no idea how wide Tennessee is - but there were not too many delays and we managed to arrive by 4 pm.

``Mom and Pop`` (Dan and Betty ☺ our hosts from prior years) were there to greet us and then take us out for supper at Paris Landing.

The parking lot was jammed with cars because a wedding had just finished and another one was due to start soon. The Hostess seated us by the window, so we could enjoy the lake view and watch the wedding while we enjoyed the wonderful food and southern hospitality.

Sunday June 12, 2011

We got up bright and early and headed off to Huntington to hear Arthur preach at the Presbyterian Church that is now in his charge. The congregation was small, but almost everyone introduced themselves to us. Sure don't get that in the big city!

Arthur is an extremely talented orator. His sermon was wonderful and he even worked us into the mix.

After church we went out for Mexican food at a local restaurant. Yummy!

In the evening Mary took us to the Baptist Church where a music director was giving a concert to celebrate her retirement. The music included hand bells, trumpets and piano as well as singing. It was quite the event and we were happy that we went along.

Tuesday June 14, 2011

The Paris County Arts Council was having a meeting at the Paris Winery to say goodbye to the outgoing Board Members and welcome the new ones. Mary is the Executive Director, and she invited us to tag along. It was a beautiful evening and involved food and wine so what was not to like?



Mary visiting with the guests



Mike sat in the corner where he would be out of the way.



Mary and President Tim kept the meeting short



Karen helped hand out the service plaques



Time for food





Wednesday June 15, 2011

Time to say farewell and head north.

Maureen and Mary took a few moments to enjoy Mary's beautiful garden



Bridge at St. Louis



Welcome to Indiana

Percy has a good view of the road



After about 6 hours of driving we arrived in New Palestine, Indiana. Randy and Eileen and Magy the beagle, welcomed us to their home. The temperature was lower than Tennessee but still quite pleasant. We sat out on the patio for a while and then went out for Mexican food and Margaritas.

Thursday June 16, 2011

After breakfast Randy drove us to the Oliver Winery to sample and enjoy the gardens by the river.



1827



The tasting went so well that Randy purchased a bottle and some cheese and crackers to enjoy on the deck.



Friday June 17, 2011

Our hosts tried to convince us to stay longer, but we had commitments at home, so we left early and headed north through Port Huron and Sarnia and finally home to Science Hill, an eight hour drive.

Maureen cleaned out the car and then we went to Stratford to return the rental car. Next was a drive to Hickson for the Stratford Lions Presidents party on Tracey and Bill`s deck. After dinner we excused ourselves early as we were both tired and still had another hour to drive.

Saturday June 18, 2011

Maureen spent a good part of the day putting things away and restocking the fridge. The trip was a lot of fun, but next time we will definitely be taking the rig. This packing and unpacking is a pain!

Sunday June 19, 2011

HAPPY FATHER`S DAY

Matt and Charlie came to Science Hill to spend the day with us.

Charlie had a great time at the pool and also got to practice his baseball skills.



Matt and Mike sipped a little Scotch and puffed on cigars



Thanks to the boys for making Father`s Day special!

Monday June 20, 2011

Mike had appointments in Stratford, so Maureen had some time to get the rig cleaned and organized. Still feeling tired from the trip south.

Thursday June 23, 2011

Looked out the window in the morning and noticed that there was a Suite and a big purple Peterbilt just down the way. It was John and Joanne, Suite owners we met at last year`s Canadian Rally. They visited us here last fall and decided to come for the weekend and take in a play at the Festival Theatre.

We were supposed to go to the Milverton BBQ in the evening, but it rained on and off all day, so we decided not to go. Spent the evening visiting with J & J instead.

Friday June 24, 2011

John tried to get his truck out of their lot and discovered that the grass was too wet so all he could do was spin his tires.



After a few unsuccessful tries we said leave it there and take our truck to see the play in Stratford.

Saturday June 25, 2011

We had decided that we wanted to build a deck beside our rig. Mike and John drove to London to pick up the wood. When they got back Joanne and Maureen helped to unload the truck. They were a huge help as there was a lot of stuff.



Things were starting to dry up, so we decided to see if our F450 could pull out the transport truck. John had purchased a long strap which Mike attached to our bumper.



After a few pulls the Peterbilt was free of the mud.



John decided to park it in the parking lot.



That evening we had a beautiful dinner in their rig and did not get back to our place until quite late. Good thing we did not have to drive home!

Sunday June 26, 2011

Mike and Maureen had to get up early to be in Stratford at 8 am to set up for the Blues and Ribfest Community breakfast. Unfortunately it was not well publicized, so not many came out to eat our pancakes and sausages.

When we got back to Science Hill we were dead beat and headed straight for bed. (Why did we drink all that wine last night?)

Monday June 27, 2011

After getting things organized, we spent the day cutting boards and screwing them together to make the base for the new deck.



Our neighbour, Bob came over to see what we were doing and offered to help. We don't think that he knew what he was getting into, but we sure are glad that he helped us.



That night we certainly slept well after a day of carrying, screwing and bending. Mike was careful not to lift too much or twist, so he would not injure his new hip.

Tuesday June 28, 2011

Another day working on the deck. It was a lot harder than we thought it would be. Thank heaven for Bob's help!





Wednesday June 29, 2011

Only spent part of the morning building, as we had Dentist appointments in the afternoon. We built a piece for the back that can be removed when we take the rig out.



Jason spent the day grading the road and filling it with gravel so hopefully no one else will get stuck.



Thursday June 30, 2011

Another part day on the deck as Mike had a doctor's appointment. It is really starting to look like something now and Percy loves it!



Mike and Bob are the amateur builders and Maureen is the go-to Monkey.



Friday July 1, 2011

HAPPY CANADA DAY!

Mike drove to Listowel and picked up Marty so he could help us with our project.





We had to quit early though, so we could go to Stratford for the parade.

Con Smythe set up his keyboard in the back of our truck and we pulled the Lions huge Birthday Cake through the city streets as the crowds cheered and waved at us.

Saturday July 2, 2011

We were able to finish attaching all the top boards to the main part of the deck today. Marty was a huge help as there were about a million screws to drill.



The wood pile is getting lower!

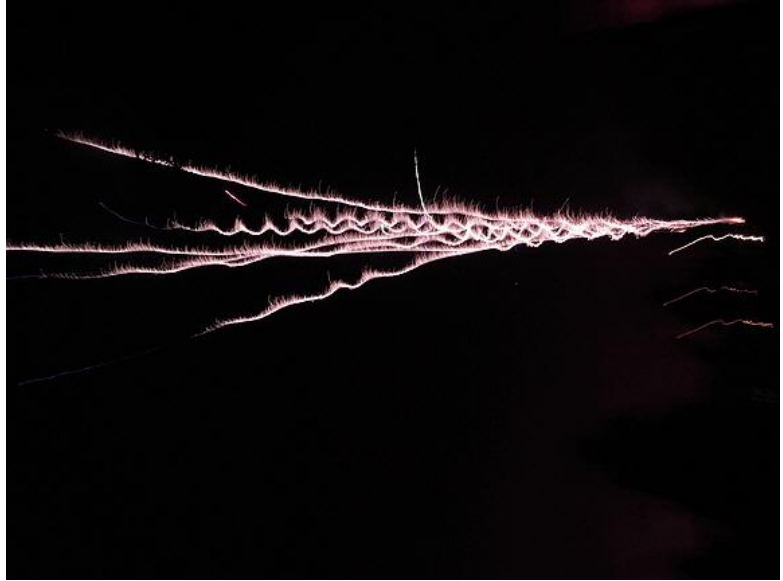




Later in the afternoon it started to rain.

After dinner the rain let up and we watched Jason and the guys light fireworks for the campers to enjoy.





When the fireworks were done Maureen drove Marty back to Listowel.

Monday July 4, 2011

Maureen went to the Ritz Nursing Home in Mitchell to train as a summer relief Dietitian. She will be working some Mondays and Fridays to give Paula a break.

Tuesday July 5, 2011

More work on the deck. Now we have stairs - Yippee!

Wednesday July 6, 2011

Maureen trained at the Mitchell Nursing Home today so Sue can have some time off this summer.

Thursday July 7, 2011

Mike and Bob enjoying a well-earned refreshment.



Friday July 8, 2011

Maureen worked at the Ritz, while Mike and Bob made more steps. Now we can get in and out of the rig without fear of dropping off the edge. Percy loves the new stairs.

Saturday, July 9, 2011

A truly perfect day, warm but not too hot with low humidity. Maureen cleaned the shed while Mike and Bob worked on re-leveling Bob's trailer. Then we sat outside and enjoyed the deck.

Sunday July 10, 2011

Much warmer and more humid today. Gave Percy a bath and did some paperwork. Still a bit more wood work to do, but we needed a day off and it is too hot to work.