

## July 3, 2014

The International Lions convention was held in Canada this year, so we set off to join our Lion friends from all over the world to celebrate another successful year in Lionism.



Mike has his papers in order so he can be registered. The line-up to register was quite long, but everyone was in good spirits.



Canadian musicians kept us entertained while we waited in line eh! Mike getting credentialed so he can vote on Tuesday.



The Kitchener Lion was on hand to welcome the world.  
The winning Peace Poster. The level of talent was amazing.



Lions wrote their dreams on this wall.



Plenty of puppies at the Dog Guide booth

Lions from South America posing with a foster parent and a future Dog Guide.



Robert and Susan Kerr - Foster parents from northern Ontario. Susan's foster puppy helped her write a book about the trials and tribulations of fostering.



Lions from A15



Maureen with Mike Butler, candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.



Waiting for the bus



We must be in Toronto eh!



Our camp-site a lot on the Lakeshore just south of the Distillery District. Our camping neighbours



View from our camp-site

## Saturday July 5, 2014

### The Big Parade

We were fortunate to get seats in the grandstand on University Ave to view the parade.



Canadian Mounties in the lead. A huge Aussie Kangaroo accompanied the Australian Lions.



Hundreds and hundreds of Japanese Lions marched proudly, and put on quite a show for the judges.



Lots of enthusiastic Chinese Lions.

There were marching bands from all over North America.



At this point the parade came to a standstill as there were too many people and not enough room at the end of the parade route.



The East Indian Lions had an elaborate float. The Texan Lions waved flags from all the countries where Lions serve.



Here come the Canadians





Our friend Barb is now a District Governor in MDA



Barbs husband, Dave proudly carries the flag with the other Governor spouses



Some Ontario Hillbillies

Marissa and her newest future Lion



Dewy the Lion out for a stroll



Happy Lions



York Lions Steel Band they won first prize



Convention organizers Hi Ron.



More Hillbillies from Poplar Hill



Niagara Falls float



After the parade we had lunch at Jack Astor's. The men's washroom was quite unique.

Later we visited with Maureen's cousins, Norman and Jo-Ann Jaques and then went with them to the Neil Sedaka show.

**Sunday July 6, 2014**



Silhouette dancers put on an amazing show for us.

Olivia Newton John and David Foster also entertained us and talked about David's Foundation.



When we got back to the rig the skies opened and the rains came.

We were completely surrounded by water



The Lions convention was very inspiring and we saw a lot of great things over the 5 days.

One that stands out however, was that as Lions were moving into our makeshift "campground" a truck passing through stopped and asked the organizers how many Lions were expected. He then left a loaf of fresh bread for each rig as a thanks for all that Lions do.

It was a small gesture, but made us feel much appreciated. Thank you to the man from Rudolph's - your Rye bread was fantastic!

**Thursday July 10, 2014**



Back at Science Hill most of our deck had been removed.  
We spent the next 4 days packing up all our belongings and  
preparing to move north.

This is what it looked like when we left on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Shed will be removed by the weekend.

Sad to be leaving St. Marys but pumped about new adventures.

## Tuesday July 15, 2014

It was a beautiful sunny day as we left Science Hill and headed west to Sarnia. Originally we planned to go the Canadian route but friends suggested that the US route would be better. We thought we would wait and cross the border the next day but it was early and things were working well, so we decided to keep on going. The border lineup was not very long and the Homeland Security man was not at all like the last one we had so nothing was removed from the rig. YEAH!

There was a lot of construction along I75 North, but the delays were minimal and for the most part the roads were good.

**WAL★MART** We stopped for the night at a Walmart in West Branch. Had dinner at Applebee's and then Maureen did some grocery shopping.



## **Wednesday July 16, 2014**

As we travelled north the topography changed with more deciduous trees and rocks.



We made a quick stop at Houghton to buy a few things at Camping World



The only major detour was at a little Village named De Tour. Thought that was rather ironical.

Passing Mackinaw Island we came to the bridge.



Off to the east we saw the locks and the rapids on the St. Marys River that gave Sault St. Marie it's name (Sault is rapids in French).

The total length of the International Bridge approaches 2.8 miles (4.5 km). At the end of the bridge was the inevitable border crossing. There was a lot of construction and Mike drove VERY carefully through it all.

Again we were greeted with a very friendly Canadian border guard. He looked at our Passports and receipts and waved us on and wished us a good time in the Soo. Wow we already love it up here.

Following the great directions provided by Joan, we easily made our way through the city.



Turned left at the KOA sign at 5<sup>th</sup> Line and were soon in the park where Joan and Bill greeted us with big hugs.



Bill escorted us to our site and a short time later we were all set up. Our site is in a beautiful wooded area close to the office, pool and agility park.



Bill and Joan take great pride in their KOA Park. As we toured around we were impressed by how well maintained and organized everything is.

## Friday July 18, 2014

Headed out bright and early to catch the 8 am train to the Agawa Canyon.



The 9 hour trip features a narrated GPS controlled travel log accompanied by TV pictures.

In between the narration a camera mounted on the front of the train shows what is ahead.





As we left Sault Ste. Marie we learned about the history of the area.



The scenery out the window was mostly trees, (Mike thinks it was the same trees over and over) but pretty little lakes popped out sometimes. There seemed to be a lack of wildlife, probably scared away by the noise of the train.



Signs of civilization were also scarce, but once in a while there would be a few cottages.



Evidence of ongoing work on the tracks



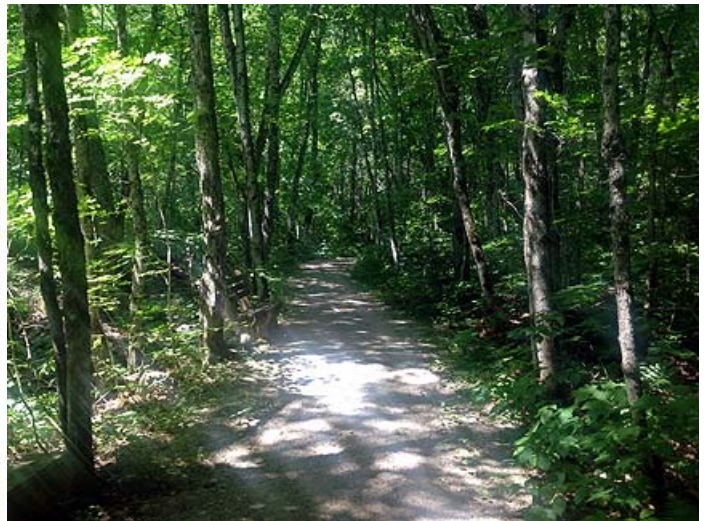
The train descended into the canyon.



An interesting sign and a reflection of the camera.

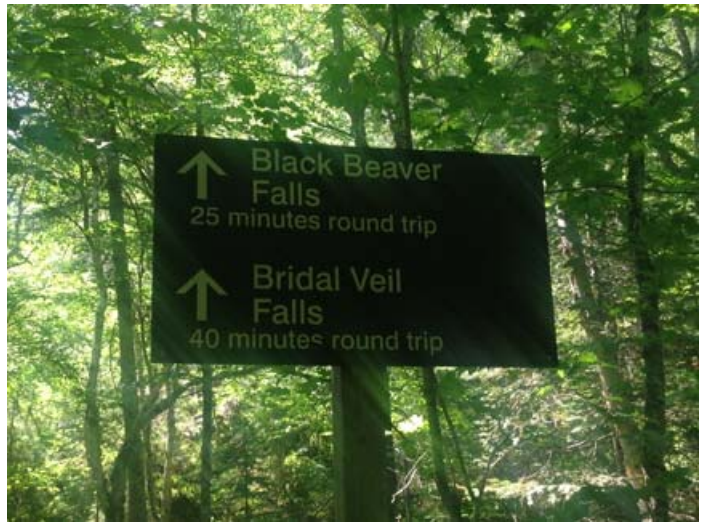
The view from the other side.

After 4 ½ hours we detrained and went for a hike through the forest.





Look carefully. Can you see the "heart"?



Then we walked back along the tracks. Some were not in very good condition.



Back on the train we stopped at the dining car for lunch. The food was good, beer and wine cold, but the prices were a bit steep.



While eating we received some bad news. According to the Conductor, there was a heat advisory in effect and the train could not travel faster than 15 miles an hour or the tracks might warp. A quick calculation determined that the 4 hour trip back would now take 8 hours.



A view of the back of the train on the curve and on the trestle.



Needless to say, some people grumbled about the delay and a lot of them went to sleep, including Mike.

The train stopped a few times to pick people up along the way. We found out later that all trains were cancelled for the next four days, so people who needed to get out had to be rescued .

About an hour before we arrived back, the train stopped and we were informed that due to federal regulations engineers could not drive for more than 12 hours. We therefore had to wait for a taxi to bring fresh drivers. The grumbling really increased as we sat motionless for a while. Things got better when staff handed out snacks and water to everyone. What we really wanted was free beer or wine but alas that did not happen.

Finally arrived back around 9:30 p.m. Very tired but glad to be back on solid ground.

As we watched the news that night and heard about all the terrible things going on in the world, we thanked our lucky stars that all we lost were a few hours. We are also thankful that Bill and Joan took good care of Percy while we were gone.

Thankful