

Maritime Trip Day 21 September 12, 2010 51 degrees F, cloudy & drizzle on & off

Last night was the coldest night so far but we all stayed toasty warm in our campers, going to the shower house, however, was another story! We dressed in layers for warmth as most of our day would be spent outdoors. We took the scenic drive to Louisbourg, one and a half hours away, to the historic Fortress of Louisbourg. This was a fortified French colonial town from 1713 to 1760 when it was destroyed by the British. To date, 20% of the town has been restored with attention to accurately recreating buildings and scenes from a typical day in 1744. There were costumed interpreters who painted a picture of everyday life in their time. Since it was a cold, windy, rainy day we got the real feel for how hard life must have been in the colonies. The fortress is surrounded on two sides by water- the Atlantic & a small harbor—the waves breaking quite violently over the rocks! The wind howled through the stone walls of the fortress. We enjoyed a delicious "Upper Class" lunch (3 courses), although we kept our coats on as it was cold and drafty in the L'Epee Royale eating house. We toured the entire town inside the walled fortress, taking 4 hours to see and hear everything.

On our drive home, we stopped at a Tim Horton's (Canada's answer to Dunkin Donuts) for hot tea and donuts. We drove back into Baddeck, the village near our campground, and shopped awhile before the Ceilidh (Kay-lee) Gathering in the St. Michael's Parish Hall. This is a typical activity of the people from this area. It included 2 hours of toe tapping music with a fiddler and a guitarist/ballad singer. Singing along and 4-step dancing were encouraged. At intermission, hot tea and oat cookies were sold. My favorite song went like this: Tea in the morning, Tea in the night, Tea when you're sober, Tea when you're tight, Tea when you're thirsty, Tea when you're not, When you enter the doorway, On goes the teapot!

We arrived back at the campground at 10:00 PM, still humming the tunes and tapping our toes and grateful we live in these times and not in the 18th century.