

Maritime Trip Day 40 October 1, 2010 57 degrees F, Still Raining

This is our 40th day on the road and I'm wondering if we should have built an ark—there are flash flood warnings all around us! We decide to head out anyway because the rain is letting up further south from here. Breaking down camp in a drizzle is no fun but at least it was not hard, pelting rain. By 11:00 am we head for Rome, New York. The scenery in the Adirondack Mountains was picturesque with waterfalls roaring at every turn and the Ausable River overflowing its banks everywhere. One bridge we crossed had utility workers checking it out to be sure it was still safe. The area rivers were projected to peak around 5:00 pm. We would be long gone out of the area by then!

The story of this trip really began last Thanksgiving when we were admiring a photo of a quaint, old cottage that hangs in the kitchen at the Rose's Marco Island home. The cottage was the home of Wayne's mom, Helen, and was on the property of the "Beeches", a conference, hotel, restaurant complex in Rome, NY. This property and another restaurant called "Savoy" were owned and operated by Helen's second husband, "Uncle Pat" Desito. Wayne wondered whether the house was still there so Bill began searching the internet and through Goggle Earth located it intact. The web revealed that both the Beeches and the Savoy had menus' and information up-to-date. The idea for our "Road Trip" was hatched! Since we were going to go 'North', it seemed logical to combine NY with the Maritime Provinces since we had heard how beautiful it was.

This was an especially emotional day for Wayne, returning to a place with many childhood memories and today was the 20 year anniversary of "Uncle Pat's" death . We first visited St. John's Cemetery where the Desito family was buried. This included Helen & Uncle Pat's gravesites along with other uncles, aunts and cousins of Wayne's. We drove what used to be 'out-of-town' to the Beeches complex. It is no longer far out but homes and businesses are built up all around it. It is still a beautiful facility with some buildings having been added on. There was a wedding reception taking place in one of the banquet rooms. Wayne toured us all around pointing out features of the nearly 100 year old mansion that was converted into the Beeches. His Mom's house is still there, a bit older but still quite quaint.

We drove back into town and located the Savory Restaurant (opened in 1908), newly painted and freshened up. Uncle Pat's Italian family (third generation now) still own and operate it! We were treated to a fabulous Italian meal. A big plate of appetizers came first with fried zucchini, calamari, meatballs and mozzarella sticks with dipping sauce. Wayne had been telling us all about the Filet Al Ciccio and the special toast made from Italian bread, generously brushed with garlic & parsley butter. We ate 3 baskets of it! The meat along with macaroni and sauce were delicious! The wooden walls were covered in family photos and college banners. An outdoor covered seating area had been added. The place was jumping! The bar was packed and every seat was filled. Donnie, one of Wayne's cousins, is in charge. He came to our table to greet us, and later one of his sons, causing lots more emotions and good feeling! Dessert of strawberry cheesecake and chocolate pecan pie finished us off!

Our trip from here on will be one day at a time, following the good weather until we get home. We have a few more stops planned to visit people and to see a few more sights.