

Maritime Trip Day 06, August 28, 2010 22 degrees C (72 degrees F) and sunny

Today we took a step back in time to visit the Rideau Canal waterways system. Built in the 1830s to open the waterways to commerce, the system has 47 locks raising/ lowering the boats approximately 150 feet from beginning to end. Lockmasters continue the tradition of hand-operating the locks and swing bridges at 24 stations. Many of the quaint villages along the waterway have shopping and eating areas within walking distance to the locks to entice boaters to come ashore. Currently mostly pleasure boats use the waterways. We shopped and ate in Merrickville where an Antique Festival was taking place.

Our next stop was to visit the 1000 islands where the Roses had a cottage in the 1960-70s. We found it on Hill Island and knocked but nobody was home. It has been doubled in size but the original cottage was now part of a bigger house. The view was still amazing! Speaking of views—we rode up 400 feet in an elevator to a lookout tower that gave a 360 degree view of the 1000 islands! Awesome!!

The KOA in Ivy Lea was kind enough to provide us with complimentary sites during our stay here. It got warm today (85 degrees) and the pool area is overflowing! The landscaping here is lush and colorful. We have a Garden Site with a special table, chairs and umbrella with large flowering bushes outlining our space. We enjoyed our picnic dinner at the site.