

OUR VACATIONS
CHAPTER 7
as of 9/28/2011

1996 – CANADA – Isabel and Bill and
September 21- October 2, 1996

DAY 1 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1996

At 9:30 am, Isabel and I drove up the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in our 1995 Oldsmobile 88.

As we approached the toll booth near Scranton we passed Charlene Weigel and her children Max and Alicia. These were two children of the children that Isabel had in her child-care work in our home four days of the week. Of course, we pulled over, got out and spent a few minutes together. They were on their way to Rochester to celebrate the birthday of Charlene's father.

An hour or so later, we pulled off Route 81 near Cortland, NY to get a late lunch at a roadside diner. As we ate, and looked across the highway at the Burger King, we saw Charlene's car again – drove over to it and went in. We were all surprised to see each other again. After lunch, we traveled on following each other until Rochester, where we headed west toward Niagara Falls.



Arriving there, we found a room at the Ramada Inn for \$72.00 less a 10% senior discount. Not too bad. We then walked a block or so to the Falls and spent an hour there before supper. Driving over Rainbow Bridge into Canada, we viewed Horseshoe Falls lit up at night; a beautiful sight.

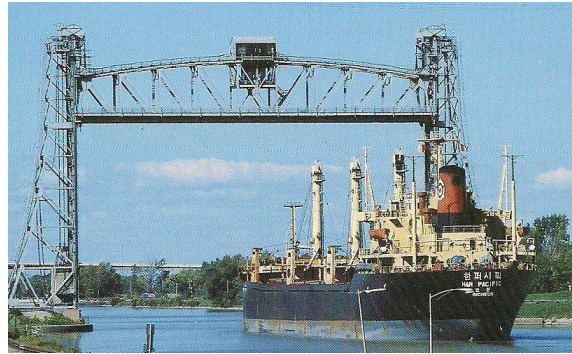
DAY 2 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1996

After breakfast we went to the First Presbyterian Church for worship. There was a guest speaker, Lewis Bigler introduced by pastor Patrick D. Warren. Staying there, despite the rain, we walked through a nearby shopping mall, watched a football game and had supper at the hotel. Called Beth on her 40th birthday.

DAY 3 - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1996

After another breakfast here at the Ramada Inn, we again drove over the Rainbow Bridge and went to the Welland Canal locks between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. We watched two large ships pass through, and then viewed a twelve minute video of the

history of the channel dating back to the 1830's. The adjoining museum was very interesting as well. Pictured below are the locks.



Driving the OEW highway, we arrived in Toronto and visited the Imperial Oil Center where the Toby Tannenbaum Opera Theater is located. I was looking for Mr. Tannenbaum who had purchased one of Munkacsy's oil paintings – "Christ Before Pilate" from the Wanamaker store. I wanted to find out where the painting was and then go view it. Mr. T's office was not there, and we were told that it had been sent to the Debracen Museum in Hungary and would be there on loan until the year 2000.

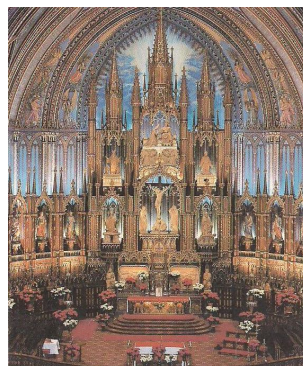
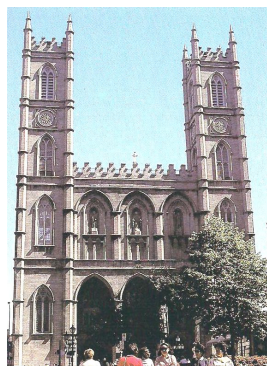
We then went to visit the People's Church in Toronto, founded by the famous preacher and song-writer, Dr. Oswald J. Smith who died in 1986 at the age of 92.

We drove on to Belleville, Ontario and stayed at the Best Western Hotel, ate at a nearby restaurant and then off to be.

DAY 4 – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

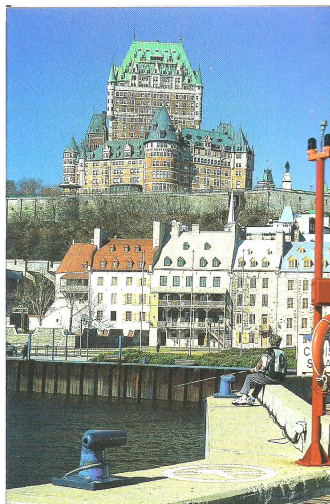
We drove on to Montreal on Route 40, a great highway – 70 miles per hour – flat, straight – and stopped in a small town for lunch. Arriving in Montreal we purchased tickets for the Montreal Symphony at the Place des Arts, with conductor Charles Dutoit, one of Philadelphia's admired musician, and sat in the mezzanine area. We stayed at Days Inn Motel outside the city near the airport. The Salle Wilfred-Pelletier Concert Hall was very new with great acoustics. Very impressive was the playing of *Til Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks* by Richard Strauss, and *Les Pins de Roma (the Pines of Rome)* by Respighi.

DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1996 After breakfast at the Days Inn, we drove into Montreal to visit the large cathedral where Pavoratti's Christmas program was filmed. Magnificent!





After spending a couple hours in the area we drove on to Quebec City and checked into the famous – and expensive La Chateau Frontenac Hotel overlooking the St. Lawrence River and seaway. Cost- \$209.00 plus \$14.25 for 24 hour parking. We always wanted to stay there, and see what it was like. IT WAS A REAL SPLURGE



Frontenac Hotel and Lower Quebec City -

We had a very nice and clean room, the smallest ever built. One double bed, two night tables, a desk and chair, chair and table, four lamps, large dresser with TV cabinet. It was a lot of furniture for the size of the room, but ample room to maneuver. The ceiling has to be 12' high. A private bath, and one window – good-size, tall, overlooking the St. Lawrence river to the island Ile D'Orleans. We are in a 2nd floor room just above the famous promenade boardwalk. Below that is the old city of Ouebec with its wharves and docks. Large ferry boats are constantly crossing for I believe that there is just one bridge to the island. Some years ago, we drove across the bridge and circled the island.

After walking around the area with its beautiful sights, we then had supper in the Café Burde, and decided to save some money and move to a less expensive rooming house – The La Ripaille – just around the corner (\$95 per night.) The room is more than adequate for a restful night's stay.

Before leaving the Frontenac Hotel, we decided to enjoy all the amenities. We went to the 6th floor indoor swimming pool, new in 1993. It appears like an old European Natatorium, all tile, two-stories high, with hot tub and wash-off showers. I went for a swim as Isabel watched. The locker room had individual lockers, private showers and a dressing stall, hair dryer, shampoo, hair lotion and conditioner, a weighing scale, and disinfectant spray for the feet. I didn't find any hair spray, however.

We ended the day with ice cream in the Bistro on the first floor.



Frontenac Indoor Pool

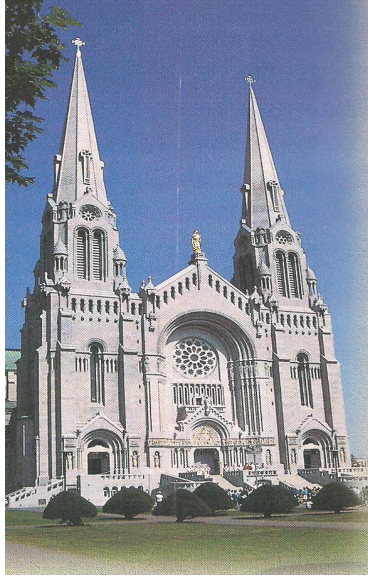
DAY 6 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1996

We began the day in the large hotel restaurant for the breakfast buffet – extra charge, of course - \$13.95. But it was worth it for a change. Everything imaginable, and we gorged ourselves.

It was a beautiful, sunny day. We walked up the hill to the Citadel, the old fortress, but unfortunately, there was not a parade or the changing of the guard which we had seen in 1989 with Betty and Norm. But the view from the top overlooking the city and the river was magnificent. We then walked down the long stairway to the promenade boardwalk. There must be several hundred steps. Alongside is the famous toboggan slide operated during the winter months.

It was then time for us to check out of the luxury hotel. At the Ripaille, we had a 3rd floor front room with three large windows, high ceilings, two double beds, and a very new bathroom. What more could one want, except a name!

This afternoon we drove to the St. Anne Du Pre Basilica about thirty km east of Quebec City. This church is so similar to many in Europe and is also the place where many people feel that they were healed of various ailments. The large granite pillars at the back of the church hold many canes and crutches people have left behind. In our pre We met the organist, Celine M. Simord and went to the nearby Mont Morency Water Falls.



St. Anne du pre Cathedral

In our previous visit to the Cathedral we also went to the adjoining chapel, much smaller, but very unusual. The chancel of the chapel is on the second floor of the building. Leading up from the ground entrance is a wide staircase that is reserved just for penitent worshippers who ascent the stairs on their knees. Others ascend the back stairs by walking up, not crawling. That is what we chose to do.

In the same area is a garden-like path through the woods where the “Stations of the Cross” constructed like small stone dioramas have been constructed.

Returning to Quebec City, we walked the promenade for a while and then went down the long steps to the lower city for supper at a café.

That evening, we watched a beautiful lunar eclipse while on the boardwalk in front of the Frontenac where there always seem to be street actors and singers.

DAY 7, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1996

Leaving the Ripaille, we had breakfast at a nice restaurant nearby at only \$3.99. On a beautiful sunny day with the temperature at about 50 degrees, we drove to the Ferry, crossed the St. Lawrence to Levis where we had lunch and Isabel went to the Frizzures. There were six hairdressers (\$15.00 for wash and set) and two barbers. I decided to get a haircut for \$11.00.

After returning to our room, we took another walk to the lower city with its shops of candle makers, souvenirs, etc., and then on to bed.

DAY 8, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1996

Before leaving town, we visited the St. Peter’s Basilica across the street from our room. Driving out of town, we crossed the bridge at St. Foy and headed for the USA. At the border, we got a tax refund of \$87.19, bought a few more items, and traded in our Canadian money.

After a long drive, we arrived at Camden, Maine where we checked in at the Best Western (\$72 per night with continental breakfast.)

We like this quaint city where we have come several times. Walking around the area, so limited, but so attractive, it is always relaxing. Here we had supper, another swim in the indoor pool, hot tub, and then to bed.

DAY 9, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1996

After breakfast we went to the Chestnut Street Baptist Church for the morning worship service. We had been there several times in previous years when I had scheduled "Turning Point", (my singing group from Eastern College) to sing. But, of course, this time, I was retired and just enjoying the leisure without any responsibilities. So nice.

Lunch here at Cappy's restaurant is always a nice treat. Knowing that Barbara Bush was scheduled to arrive in town to dedicate the new library, we decided to avoid the traffic and leave town.

Driving on to Boothbay Harbor, another of our favorite places, we walked around for a while, met and talked with Captain Fish, with whom we had sailed many years before in 1980. At that time he had just opened his new motel and we were among his first guests.

Heading south, we stopped in Thomaston, Maine at the Maine Prison Store and bought several hand-made wooden items made by prison inmates.. We then got a room at Best Western Mercy Manor (\$80 per night), walked to Tony Romeo's restaurant, and called it a day.

DAY 10, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1996

Up at 5:30 am in order to get an early start and arrived at Barb's on Long Pond in Harwich, Cape Cod before noon. Later, she had to leave us in order to waitress at the Old Sea Pines Hotels so we went to the Bay to watch the sunset.

DAY 11, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1996

Here at Long Pond, Barb and I went canoeing, drove some golf balls, did some shopping together, and we all had supper in Orleans. Very casual day.

DAY 12, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1996

Up here at Long Pond, Massachusetts, had breakfast with Barb, drove to Barrington, Rhode Island to have lunch with Chuck and Ginny Lou, and drove straight home to Wayne, Pennsylvania.

END OF CHAPTER SEVEN