

When we last posted we had just left Montreal on a warm and sunny morning and headed south to cross into the US at the Vermont line. The cars were lined up at the border and it took 25 minutes to get through the immigration point and we were somewhat surprised at how much more difficult it was to enter the US here rather than at any International airport - and the agents were nowhere near as pleasant.

However, we were soon in Burlington after crossing the border and checked into our hotel before 1pm.

Our friends Gordon and Jay from Massachusetts were about 30 minutes behind us so we soon met up with them. Once they had checked in we drove to a park overlooking Lake Champlain where we had a hot dog and fries lunch from a "chip wagon" that Gord just loved. We ate outside with a view of the lake and then spent a further two hours in town on a main pedestrianized shopping area. It was now very warm and sunny and it was really pleasant to stroll along the street and enjoy a coffee.



## ***Burlington, VT***

We completed the day with a great dinner at a local restaurant.

## ***Moss Glen Falls Jay and Molly***

On Friday we started our drive south - actually mainly east, at first. Our first stop was at the Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream factory (a US Favorite, for our UK friends) where we learned the history of this company and took a tour of the facility. We then drove through beautiful Vermont mountain countryside to a pizza place for lunch, having made two quick stops at a couple of waterfalls along the road side.





Our final stop (of over an hour) was at the Vermont Country Store where they had many products from days gone by as well as an enormous selection of sweets, cheeses, candies and games.

Then we had two hours of driving in torrential rain before we arrived at our hotel in Westborough. Meanwhile, Gord and Jay had gone a slightly different route to their home in Rutland before setting out once again to meet us for dinner and a nightcap at our hotel.

On Saturday Jay and Gordon arrived at the hotel about ten and we set off in our car to drive about an hour northeast into New Hampshire to visit "America's Stonehenge". This is a privately owned site on which are many large (huge!) stones arranged in what could have been an astrological and/or sacrificial arrangement, much like its English namesake.

We first watched a ten minute movie about the discovery and recent excavations of the site since the mid-1950s. Work is still continuing and there has been no unequivocal dating of the original structure, although there are many indications that it could be of the order of 4000 years old. The dating and definition of its purpose have been complicated by the fact that later inhabitants of the area (it is

known that a family built and farmed there in the 1800s) used some of the stones for their buildings or as foundations for an upper wooden structure. In addition, it appears that stone was actually quarried here and taken away.



*Jay, our tour guide in the "Pulpit", and one of the many structures at "Stonehenge"*



*The Oracle Chamber*



*Sacrifice Table*

Hence, the speculation continues but, whatever its origin and purpose, it is set in a lovely wooded area and it was a very pleasant 1 ½ hours of strolling and "what ifs" on a beautiful warm morning.

We left the site and found a pub for lunch within 20 minutes and then drove the 60 miles back to the hotel.

In the evening, Molly and I drove to Jay and Gord's home for dinner and more fun conversation. We had hamburgers from the grill and all the fixings, as well as home grown (just picked) asparagus. That with fresh fruit and coffee to follow - as well as a cold beverage or two - made for a wonderful evening and it was 11pm before we got back to the hotel.



On Sunday we met Jay and Gordon for brunch at a downtown Worcester hotel. The selection was great (breakfast, lunch and desserts) and, with a couple of glasses of mimosa, it was a very pleasant meal.

Jay and Gord then drove us on a tour of Worcester with its many fine buildings, dozens of churches and, of course, its college campuses. In addition we were treated to the Matheson Medical History Tour (with apologies to the Beatles) on which we saw where Gordon has received most of his treatments and examinations over the past several years.



***Picturesque Worcester with:***

***Top Left; one of the churches where Gord's dad ministered***

***Bottom Right: Worcester State University where Jay and Gord taught for many years***



We then went to their home but only for a few minutes before taking another drive in the neighborhood of Rutland. It was quite chilly again by now so we didn't spend an awful lot of time outside the car but we did manage an almost one mile walk along a lovely walking trail that had been converted from the railroad bed. We then returned to Jay and Gord's for the rest of the evening and enjoyed another great meal and good conversation before saying our farewells for this trip.



**On Monday we drove the 300 miles to Syracuse, NY where we were to spend some time with Cathy Temple. Cathy (and her late husband David) had been our neighbors when we lived in Liverpool, NY and Elizabeth and Cathy's daughter Chrissie had played together as toddlers. Wow, that's about 45 years ago!**

**Cathy had made a reservation at a steakhouse near the fairgrounds which turned out to be very nice. We had a very good meal and an evening of great conversation before returning to her home for just a little while before going back to the hotel.**



**By now it was time to head towards home and we took two days over the 600mile trip. On Tuesday (today) we drove as far as Erie, PA but spent about 100 miles of this drive off the expressway and along the side of Lake Erie. This took us past some huge lakeside homes and a number of state and local parks. The weather was still a little cool (mid-fifties) but it was a bright and sunny day which made for a very pleasant drive and a nice change from the expressway. We also visited a huge basilica in the suburbs of Buffalo which was magnificent both inside and out.**



**We will spend the night here in Erie and then complete the 2500 mile road trip tomorrow when we should arrive home in the late afternoon.**

**It has been great to spend time driving through some very scenic countryside but even more fun was spending time with good friends. From Bill and Monica, with whom we were in college, to Cathy our neighbor from our first days in this country to Jay and Gord whom we met only a few years ago on an Asian river cruise, it has been wonderful to catch upon our respective lives and families and share memories—as well as future plans to get together.**