

The Accidental Tourist Guide



Bob Smith, Charlotte Bertrande and Pierre Scanavino at Bob's home in Glenholme. The travellers are rested and ready for the next leg of their journey, to Newfoundland via Halifax International Airport. (Lisa McBurnie Photo)

By Robert Smith

It is risky to pick up hitchhikers, or to hitchhike for that matter, but I like to think that there is an opportunity for the good in both of these practices. I want to share a story about a couple of travelers that I recently picked up.

On the afternoon of August 12, I picked up two people on the ramp heading out of Truro towards New Brunswick. I asked the young couple where they were headed, and they told me in broken English that they were going to Montreal.

Through our conversation I discovered they had come from France, via Iceland, where they had spent the last two months exploring that country. From Iceland, they flew into Halifax, and were planning to see some of Canada. They inquired about Cape Breton, wanting to know about the Cabot Trail, and if they would be able to swim in the waters there.

I assured them they would find lots of places to swim and if a stream was coming out of the mountains, that they should feel safe drinking the water. With a quick decision to go east instead of west, my offer of a drive was cut short. I dropped them off on the ramp to Cape Breton (104 East). Before they left I took the opportunity to welcome them to Canada. I told them they could call me Bob, and they introduced themselves as Pierre and Charlotte.

What I thought was the end of a story was really only the beginning. Just over a week after I left the travelers, I was once again leaving Truro when I saw two more young people at the same spot on the ramp where I had picked up Pierre and Charlotte. Naturally I stopped again.

You can imagine the surprise when the hitchhikers opened the door to my truck and I saw it was Pierre and Charlotte. I welcomed them and right away and Charlotte exclaimed, "Hey, it's the same guy, its Bob." Strangely I remembered their names and said "Charlotte, Pierre, nice to see you again." I put their packs in the back and they climbed in. As I started them on their journey westward, we had a great laugh about the serendipity of our second chance encounter.

Once on the road, I thought it just wouldn't be right to drive from Truro to Masstown without at least giving Charlotte and Pierre a glimpse of the Bay of Fundy. I drove to the beach at Little Dyke where the tide was approaching, but still only

about half way to the shore.

I explained the tides to Charlotte and Pierre, but left feeling that they did not completely understand the significance of the Bay. We made a quick stop at my house on Little Dyke Road, where we sampled produce from a typical Canadian vegetable garden.

I had planted late, so the vegetables were young and tender. We ate peas (pods and all), carrots and new beans straight from the garden. Pierre didn't mind the mud on the carrots. I dug a few potatoes, pulled some carrots, and picked peas and beans for them to take on the road.

I could tell that they were anxious to get moving, but

they quickly agreed when I asked them if they wanted to come inside for a moment. They had never been inside a house in Canada, so I gave them a quick tour. In the house I had several mason jars of fresh blueberries that I had picked a day earlier so I added a bottle to their traveling supplies. (The berries were some of the best from the field as they were picked while the harvester was working the field. Every pass of the harvester provided a nice new place to pick the best of the crop.) I took a picture of Pierre and Charlotte and then dropped them off on the ramp at exit 12 for their trip west. I gave them a business card with my e-mail address and phone number, and welcomed them to contact me if they were back in Nova Scotia.

November 21st I received an e-mail from Charlotte and Pierre saying they were in Riviere de Loup and heading east to St. John's, Newfoundland. They hoped to be passing through in a couple of days and said they would contact me. I responded by inviting them to stop over at my house for a night if they wished. The next day they called from Fredericton to say they would welcome my invitation. We made plans to have them call from the Masstown Market and I would pick them up when they got to the area.

Check out next Month's issue of The Shoreline Journal for more of the adventures of Charlotte and Pierre in Part 2 of "The Accidental Tourist Guide".

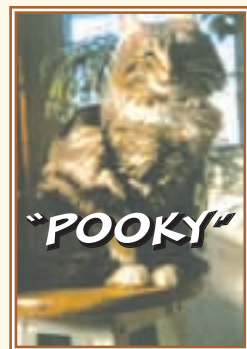


Charlotte Bertrande and Pierre Scanavino enjoy a snack, a glass of wine and friendly conversation in Bob Smith's kitchen while Bob prepares an evening meal. Pierre is sporting a beard, but Charlotte has plans that include it being gone. (Bob Smith Photo)

My Favourite Pet

Pooky, 11.5 years old, weighs in at 12 pounds!

Pooky and owner Wanda Findlay, Middle Road, Debert are this month's winners of \$20.00 Gift Certificate from the Shoreline Journal and Clarence Farm Services.



CLARENCE FARM SERVICES LIMITED
 "Your Pet Nutrition Centre"
 65 Industrial Ave, Truro
 Phone 895-6366

Trip of a Lifetime for Onslow Mountain Family



Gerald Bates of Onslow Mountain recently won a trip of a lifetime for six people. Gerald, his wife and son, brother and two friends were flown to Pittsburgh, PA, to watch a Penguins hockey game. They were thrilled to spend an hour chatting with Sidney Crosby. Shown in the private skybox are (l to r): John Bates, Sidney Crosby, Greg Fields, Nancy Bates, Gerald Bates (grand prize winner), Mitchell Bates and Joanne Fields. (Submitted)

By Linda Harrington

Any hockey fan would be thrilled to even get a Sidney Crosby autograph but spending an hour with him, watching a Pittsburgh Penguins home game, is an ultimate thrill of a life time.

Gerald Bates of Onslow Mountain was the lucky grand prize winner of an all-expense paid trip to Pittsburgh, PA in the Dempster's 1-on-1 with Sidney Crosby hockey promotion.

Nancy Bates says her husband entered the contest about a dozen times, hoping to win one of the 56 daily prizes of a signed Sidney Crosby jersey. "We have won a fair amount of small prizes in contests before but never something this amazing," she says.

"We had the time of our lives and we were treated like kings & queens by Canada Bread/Dempsters Bread. There were approximately 330,000 people who entered the contest and I still can't believe I was selected as the grand prize winner," says Gerald.

"He spent about an hour with us in the box, signing autographs, taking photos and chatting. He is a personable as everyone says."

The trip included airfare and accommodations for six people. Gerald, Nancy and their son Mitchell were obvious choices but it was a bit difficult to pick the other three. They were pleased to take along Gerald's brother John and their friends Greg and Joanne Fields.

Six excited travellers left for Pittsburgh at 6AM on January 8th. "We stayed at the Westin hotel, they paid for all our expenses and we had a sightseeing tour of the city," says Nancy.

"We got to see Heinz field where the Steelers play football and PNC Park where the Pirates play baseball. We also went up Mount Washington and had a beautiful view of

Pittsburgh, as the city lights came on," Gerald recalls, still in disbelief.

The highlight was watching the hockey game of Pittsburgh Penguins versus Minnesota Wilds from a private box, with an hour long visit from Sidney Crosby. "We were supposed to meet Sidney after the game but he was injured so he didn't play in the game," says Nancy. "He spent about an hour with us in the box, signing autographs, taking photos and chatting. He is a personable as everyone says."

The Nova Scotia fans brought along some items for Sidney to sign, including Paul Hollingsworth's book, Sidney Crosby: The Story of a Champion.

The return trip home was supposed to take place on Sunday, January 9th but inclement weather delayed travel until Monday, although they were not about to complain after this trip of a lifetime.

YOU ARE INVITED TO INVEST IN COMMUNITY OWNED WIND ENERGY

Buy shares in a local company that is dedicated to bringing community-owned wind-power to residents of Colchester and Cumberland Counties.

The Colchester-Cumberland Wind Field Inc. (CCWF) is a community-owned company that is installing a wind turbine near Tatamagouche for revenue service beginning in 2011.

CCWF shares are offered through the provincial CEDIF program (Community Economic Development Investment Fund), providing tax benefits to investors:

- The Investment is RRSP eligible and can be made with new funds or by transfer from an existing RRSP.
- Share purchases are eligible for a 35% provincial income tax credit that may be carried forward 7 years or back 3 years. Provided certain conditions are met, the investment is eligible for further tax credits of 20% and 10% at the 5 and 10 year investment anniversaries, respectively.
- Investments made by March 1, 2011 are eligible for a 2010 tax credit.

You are invited to view the Offering Document at www.ccwf.ca and to contact David Stevenson at 902-657-1064 for further information.

THIS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IS MADE THROUGH A CEDIF OFFERING DOCUMENT, WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM AN AUTHORIZED SALES AGENT OR FINDER, OR BY CONTACTING DAVID STEVENSON AT 902-657-1064. INVESTORS SHOULD READ THE OFFERING DOCUMENT BEFORE MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION.