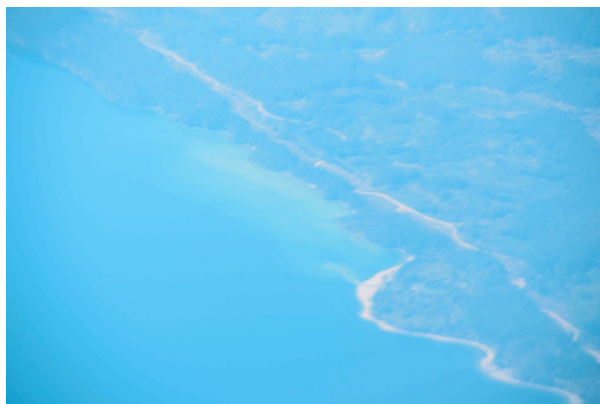


DAY 1 - April 20 - April 21, 2019:

It was a beautiful morning to travel. Beautiful blue skies, and a little less chill in the air. Thanks Ross for taking us over to the airport. It was also a wonderful surprise to see Neil, Reiko, Zen, Kira and Tolkien. A great send off.

Our morning started off a little bumpy when we were notified that our Vancouver flight was delayed by an hour. It meant that we would not have enough time to make the connection to Dublin, so our travel agent Nicole got right on that and fixed it. So much better than having to deal with that kind of stress yourself.

No upsets with luggage, we just decided to check them thru to Dublin. So much less to have to worry about. We both felt very light. A first time for everything. The flight attendant was asking people to move to the back of the plane to distribute the weight load. Finally we were ready to leave Penticton. Excited! Sayonara lovely Penticton.



Great flight to Vancouver and the smoothest landing, it literally glided onto the runway. Must have been the woman co-pilot. Beautiful scenery as we ascended. I actually had a window seat. Love the air shots. Just so majestic.

I took so many shots but have decided I am

going to delete most of them. I will pick three of the best and dump the rest. I will share a couple of them because I like them.



It was raining in Vancouver, go figure. Having the shuttles and wheel chairs set up for Kevin was a God send. So much easier on both of us.

Once we settled into the passenger lounge, after I had pushed Kevin in the wheelchair for a good 5 km., I gave my brother Sonny a call. He doesn't talk very long on the phone as with his severe asthma he just can't. However, we talked a few minutes and I spent the rest of the time talking to my sister-in-law Theresa. It was great to have the time to do that. Long walks in that Toronto Airport. A lovely porter-lady pushed us through the crowds and got us out of their and thru the line-ups lickety split.

We didn't have a very long wait in Toronto, about 2 hours but it went fast. We boarded the plane on time, and it was great being the first people to board. Made it so much easier on Kevin. Our flight out of Toronto was delayed as the Captain was waiting for some kind of paperwork. 45 minutes later we finally took off.

Found this trip a bit long as I couldn't get my tablet working to read my books. It kept turning off every 10 minutes. I know how to set the various screen off times, but there was no place to say don't turn off. As luck would have it, Kevin had a hardcover book to read, so I was able to use my reader.

Trying to sleep was a nightmare. It was very hard on Kevin. I was going to try and upgrade to a bed coming home but our travel agent advised me that it could be \$5,000 each. We can do without sleep for that amount of money. Overall it was a wonderful flight, service was spectacular, choice of movies really good and only 2 bumpy spots. The food was actually pretty good on the plane which it isn't always. I was able to find things that I could eat, so that made me happy.

Once we retrieved our luggage, we located our rider. Arthur Joseph Keogh was incredibly. He gave us a bit of a tour on the way to the Iveagh Hotel. (pronounced Ivy). We seem to have all the luck picking our arrival dates. Amsterdam years ago we landed on the Queen's Birthday and the crowds were nuts. Today, Easter Sunday is the day the Irish celebrate kicking the British out of Ireland. (1916 Rebellion). Lots of streets blocked off, to make room for the enactment of the rebellion as well as for the festivities. A wild night. Definitely, reminded us of our arrival in Amsterdam on the Queen's Birthday. At least we got to see a little more than we might have by having to circumnavigate through the crowds.

As we arrived early morning our room wasn't ready so we decided to dump our bags and do some exploring. We walked along Hartcourt Street; what a crazy place, shops, street closed to traffic most of the day and thousands of people. We stopped into a few places and saw some lovely Irish, good quality souvenirs. A lot of the shops were closed, because it was Easter Sunday.

We spent the better part of 3 hours roaming around and certainly getting acquainted with the neighbourhood. For one hour we roamed St. Stephen's Green - a park which reminded us of the public gardens in Halifax. It was so beautiful, the flowers were in bloom, and people were sitting along the grass, enjoying the warm spring afternoon. The ducks were at their best.

Singing for their supper. Or should I say loudly squawking at whoever had bread in their hands. So much fun. Even though we will be coming back here tomorrow, we spent a lot of time strolling around.

We were pretty tired after this excursion so, went back to the hotel and were touched when we saw an anniversary chocolate tray on our bed. How kind. We have a huge beautiful room. We settled in and then headed out again to find a Tesco Store where I was able to pick up a SIM card for my phone. It is only free texts and calls in Europe so I it won't help me with my wedding texts. I will have to keep a sharp eye my wedding e-mails.



We were told about a great pub for supper “The Bleeding Horse”. It was so much fun and I had my first “Guinness”. The first mouthful was awful, but it was like eating olives, once you down a few you fall in love . Now I will have to watch that I don't get a beer gut. Kevin says not to worry, it's only in Ireland that it tastes so good. PHEW!

Enjoyed the company of the locals and watched the Rugby. It was a wild night. These Irishmen love their Rugby Games. I was getting detailed instructions from a young fellow who say when you come to Ireland you learn to love two things - Guinness and Rugby. I'm converted.

Enjoyed a wonderful stroll home and though our intentions were good, we laid on our beds and woke up the next morning. Must be the fresh air ---- naw! it's the Guinness and the Rugby.



A great day 1!

Judith Walsh (sounds so more Irish than Judi Ritcey

Judi experiencing her first Guinness!

She is almost converted!