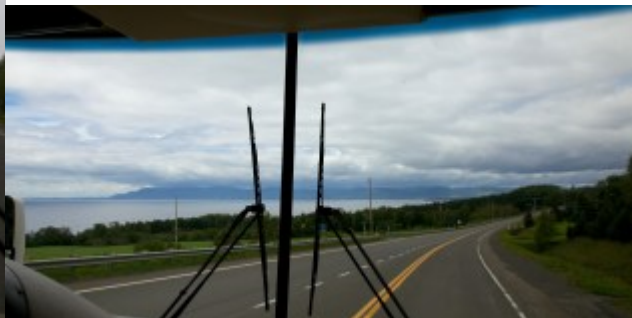


Across the Grand Fleuve

Description



We made

another change in our travel plans. We'd originally planned to continue to drive around the Gaspé Peninsula and check out the north side of the peninsula.

But we learned about an intriguing area on the north side of the St. Lawrence River from Lois and Bev, new Ontario friends we met at a ceilidh in Baddeck, Cape Breton Island. The Saguenay Region is an area where the confluence of several bodies of water brings nutrients to the surface that attract many different types of whales. It's a whale watching "mecca".

Avid whale lovers that we are this sounded like just our speed. Also the drive there was on less

challenging roads. The roads for our original plan around the Gaspé would be extremely challenging for Island Girl, which we confirmed when we drove in our car out to Forillon National Park and



So we left the

Gaspésie en route to the Saguenay / Côte-Nord region of Quebec, the area north of the St. Lawrence



The drive time was

over six hours and included another ferry ride. Based on the ferry schedule we divided the drive up by spending the night near the ferry departure dock and taking the ferry the next day. On the way we made a quick stop to walk around a really long and pretty covered bridge.





We experienced every kind of weather on our first driving

day. The day started out very cloudy and a little foggy, then had varying degrees of cloud cover, a light rain shower and ended with blue sky and light clouds.

And we saw a little slice of a pretty sunset over the St. Lawrence River from our overnight campsite.

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The next

morning we headed out to the ferry dock to cross the St. Lawrence River. We chose the ferry from Trois Pistoles to Les Ecumins because it made for the shortest distance to our final destination, the village of Les Bergeronnes, but also because this particular ferry allowed us to make a reservation and others didn't.

Good thing we had a reservation because the ferry only accommodates a total of 40 cars, so we had to wait more than one ferry in order to get on.



This was Island Girl's second ferry ride, but I was a bit

concerned about boarding a "smaller" ferry, so I was very relieved when I saw a logging truck drive out of the ferry. Easy Peasy. Still, although they boarded a medium sized tractor, we were the biggest rig





I'm really impressed by these ferry operations. The guys who coordinate embarking and disembarking manage to get you within inches of the other and can squeeze in many more vehicles than you think possible. It all seems





River (fleuve) is a really wide and large body of water at

this point (grand fleuve). The crossing was about one and a half hours and presented our first opportunity to see whales. A lucky person on board spotted a Beluga Whale, but we missed it and there were no other sightings. But it was still quite an enjoyable experience and a very smooth sail.

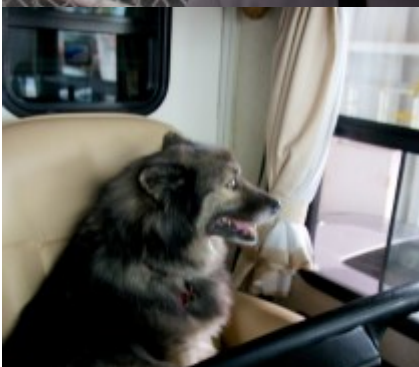


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er's seat enjoying the view. She's becoming a seasoned ferry
of her roots since Keeshonds were originally Dutch barge dogs.



We arrived at our pretty campsite in Les Bergeronnes with

a "vue sur le fleuve" in the early afternoon.

There were a few inconveniences; the water had to be boiled because it had some bacteria due to some construction, and there was no Wi-Fi at our campground nor anywhere but one place in the



But we took it in stride, bought some large bottles of water

and located the Wi-Fi spot, which was pretty close to us. More to tell on that Wi-Fi thing soon.

On to more adventures on the Côte-Nord of the Fleuve St-Laurent!

~ Brenda

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1. covered bridges
2. ferry

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