

Crossing the Border into Canada

Description



We prepared for our trip to Canada by checking the official [Canada Border Services Agency website](#), [RV forums](#), and a couple of other websites such as [this one](#). Also, since we learned that many items are more expensive in Canada, we stocked up on some staples like paper towels, tissues, TP, coffee, detergents, sugar etc.

A few weeks before going to Canada we went shopping at a Trader Joe's (which we love) and Hector decided to stock up on wine. I had a nagging thought that this would result in some duties, but he



We'd also asked our



...d a batch of mail right at the end of our stay in the U.S. so we wouldn't
...or a little while after we arrived in Canada.

and then it happened; our refrigerator broke down and stopped working altogether. And, of course, it was a Sunday and the one RV service shop in Trenton, Maine was closed.

The drive to our first stop in Canada was going to be a longer drive than we normally like to take (six hours) and our original plan was to leave very early, in case there was any delay at the border. We quickly had to develop a Plan B, which was to stop by the local RV service shop first thing in the morning and hope for the best.

One thing I've learned in my RV travels is to seek advice and/or help from others, so I went to the campground office and ran our plan by them for feedback. Their advice was to detour slightly to Bangor, a much larger town, where there were several larger RV service providers. By doing so we'd have a better chance of finding someone who would have any parts we might need in stock.

Flexibility is key when traveling in an RV. So we went with Plan C.

We headed out early in the morning for Bangor, and Hector made a couple of calls to the RV shops on the way. [Pine Tree RV Parts and Services](#) stood out because of their website and the fact that they were exclusively an RV service provider and not an RV dealer. Turned out they also were the most responsive and confirmed an appointment for 11a.m. because they were handling another emergency prior to ours. Tic-Toc.

So we prepared ourselves for the possibility of spending one or more nights in Bangor. We arrived early for our appointment, which gave us a little time to get some cash at the ATM, fill up the car with gas and get lunch.



Karma was on our side and Dave, the owner, was able to fix our fridge. He had to

replace the motherboard, which he actually had in stock! As a bonus, he fixed one of our fluorescent lights, an issue we'd planned to ignore for a little while. So a couple of hours and \$400 later we were off to Canada. Way to go Pine Tree RV!

Our GPS now projected our time of arrival as 9:15p.m.. So, prior to reaching the border, we called the campground to let them know that we were going to arrive late. Some campgrounds allow people to arrive after they close the office and some don't. They agreed to wait until 9:30 for us and I told them I'd check in with them later (it was about five o'clock). At this point, I didn't ask what would happen if we arrived after 9:30, one thing at a time.

We still
we'd ha

definitely wanted to reduce the amount of gas
matter of crossing the border. On Canada Day



no less.

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you can cross from
vo crossings over

We'd heard that

these border crossings are generally pretty quiet compared to other more touristy towns. And when we
; two for cars, with relatively short lines, one for RV's and trucks with no
no line. Yay!



The young border official at the border questioned us while giving us the

penetrating stare (but nicely). He asked for our passports, registration, and tag number.

“Where were we from?”

“Where were we going?”

“How long did we plan to stay?”

“Where were we staying?”

“Did we have any animal or vegetable products (not allowed) other than Angel, whom he referred to as Cujo?!” – No, ha-ha. By the way, he never asked for proof of her rabies vaccination, which is required (and we had at the ready).

“Were we carrying liquor?” – Yes

“What did we have?” – Open bottles of liquor and unopened bottles of wine

“How many bottles of wine did we have?” – Oh, oh, I thought, here we go. 20 bottles, we were at Trader Joe's and bought three buck chuck, blah, blah, blah. TMI, I thought, but the guy seemed to take it in stride.

“What was the value of all the bottles?”



over
total



news is, even though the duty was about 80% of the
was still pretty cheap, since we had mostly cheap

wine.

Okay, we made the border crossing fairly quickly. The GPS now projected our arrival time at 9:45 and
e on TransCanadian Highway 2, which, at least in this area,
side of the road and a very wide median, also with trees.



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About fifteen minutes after crossing the border we saw a small



an. Very cool! We
fferent.

with Hector making up time by going a couple of miles above speed limit when he felt it was safe (a definite negative impact on the trip) and back at 8:30 and let them



know we would make 9:30.



We rolled into the campground at 9:25p.m. and the

wonderful folks there gave us a warm welcome in spite of them staying late to wait for us on Canada Day. Oh, Canada.

~ Brenda

Category

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