

# Smoking Can Seriously Upgrade your Mode of Transport

At the invitation of Larry Sheppard, Canada's IPA President from Binbrook, Ontario, Ernie Flatters and his wife Liz journeyed to report on Section Canada's Golden Jubilee Celebration.

Saturday morning started pleasantly with forty-one IPA members from nine different countries enjoying a lunch cruise on the Grand River through the First Nation's lands. However, on the way back to the main banquet and presentation evening, the bus had to stop because of excessive smoke coming from the rear axle. Fortunately, a smaller bus which was passing stopped and was able to transport three-quarters of the party back to the Hilton. For the remaining stranded party a stretch limousine pulled up and transported them back to the hotel in style. Now that is what I call an upgrade!

The week began with the AGM which was held at the Hilton in Ontario. I attended as an observer, whilst the ladies were on a shopping expedition! The presidents and delegates of all the regions were present at the AGM as well as the founder of the Canadian IPA, Rev. Charles Wright. Charles also assisted Canada's neighbours, Section USA to form in 1962. The USA Golden Jubilee will take place in November 2012 in Washington, DC.

Diane MacGregor from Michigan was there at the beginning of the AGM and presented Charles with a glass plaque to congratulate the Canadian Section

on their 50th year.

On Saturday evening an excellent banquet was held in the Hilton to officially celebrate the IPA Canada's Golden Jubilee. The founder, Charles Wright, and his wife Sheila, the National President, Larry Sheppard, and his wife Judy, Chief of Police Brad Duncan accompanied by two Mounties and Honour Guard were piped in. After an excellent meal for 127 guests we were entertained by the London Celtic Choir. This was followed by a presentation to Charles Wright for his unstinting support since its foundation. During his speech, several times he referred to our own founder Arthur Troop with whom I served for two and a half years at Stamford, Lincolnshire doing an abundance of printing for the IPA during my dinner hours - lovely memories.

At the end of the presentations to the various personnel of the different regions, I presented a 'Jedd' Diamond Jubilee print to Charles Wright. I presented this print on behalf of the Lincolnshire IPA as the IPA was founded in Skegness on the 1 January, 1950. I also presented a Lincolnshire plaque and helmet to Larry Sheppard. Much to my surprise, I was presented with a wall clock in return.

At the end of the banquet, I got together with Charles Wright and Jack Western (Canada No. 4) for a photograph which represents 152 years of IPA membership, 50 years for Charles Wright and myself. Jack had one year with the French section, one year with the UK and fifty years with Canada. Strangely, Len Washer depicted on the 'Jedd' print and Jack Western are both No.4s of their respective countries. Coincidentally Charles Wright and Jack Western were both tail gunners in Lancasters, Charles with 170 Squadron flying from RAF Hemswell and Jack with 153 Squadron; flying from RAF Scampton, both were on my previous patch at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

Ernie Flatters, Lincolnshire branch



Meeting a Mounity

Linda Bailey takes up the story.

Monday saw the discovery of Covent Garden Market amongst other shoppers' delights. This find caused bemusement; had we travelled back to the UK in our sleep? I soon discovered it was nowhere near the size of Covent Garden back in the UK. It became apparent that the English had left their mark in many places around the region. So much so, the train from Toronto that took me down to London was due to stop at Windsor.

A visit to the Police Training College, an impressive set of buildings in grounds that were excellently landscaped and lush, was most enjoyable as we were showcased all the different courses available to the attendees. Much of our time during the week was spent eating at a variety of wonderful restaurants - clearly reflected in the expanding waistlines of all of us by the end of the trip...

On Tuesday - After breakfast we boarded a double-decker London bus for a guided tour of the city. Our young female tour guide started many of her remarks by, "Did you know?", a phrase that some of us continued to use throughout the tour and made funnier by the fact that later on we found postcards and bookmarks with the same expression on them...

We were dropped off at the end of our tour at Labatt's Brewery where we were divided up into two groups. One group to take a tour and the other to take a drink and hear about the history of the brewing process and to learn how to perform the nine step pouring ritual, the Stella Artois way. We then swapped over

before doing a tasting test of five of their beers. A pizza lunch helped soak some of it up! We wandered back to the hotel and had a leisurely afternoon before being transported to the RCMP club for dinner. Here we were met by Steve Arthur in full regalia and had our pictures taken with him. It was our last night in London and so we thanked our London hosts for their hospitality and guidance.

On Wednesday the weather was warm and sunny and so our arrival in Niagara was memorable. The Oakes Hotel overlooked the Falls which were more awesome and breathtaking than I could have imagined. How lucky to see such a spectacular sight. We had the afternoon to settle in and explore the locality before boarding a bus that was to take us to the Skylon Tower for dinner and a chance to see the American and Horseshoe Falls in all their glory.

'Did You Know' that the Tower is the tallest structure in Niagara and the dining room rotates once every hour?

The group took 'The Maid of the Mist' boat tour on Friday. 'Did You Know' that everyone is given a blue poncho for the trip?

The boat passes the American Falls before heading out to the foot of the Horseshoe Falls. It was magical! We then walked along to the side of the Horseshoe Falls and watched the power of the water as it fell over the edge. 'Did You Know'

that the Falls have been eroded greatly since the 1600's and now, thanks to hydro-electric power control, it should only erode about a foot every ten years! Friday was rounded off with a dinner show, 'Oh Canada, Eh!', where all the waiters and waitresses were singers who went on the stage after serving each course. It was very entertaining!

The programme for Saturday and Sunday took us on a trip to Halton Streetcar and Electric Railway Museum. We enjoyed a trip down the line on one of the trams and later explored the shed which was full of many wonderful old vehicles. We headed to 'Saint-Marie among the Hurons', Ontario's first European community and HQ for the French Jesuit Mission, started in 1639. Strangely it only lasted ten years and it was abandoned after being burnt down. After extensive archaeological and historical research the site has been rebuilt and the story has been brought to life. Later we headed out to Georgian Bay where the Miss Midland boat took us on a cruise round the islands. On our return to the city, we headed out for a Chinese buffet at the Mandarin. No one had seen so much food in the same place at the same time. Some people were hoping no-one was counting how many times they went back for another helping!

Sport fans were delighted on Monday

morning as we walked to the Rogers Centre, home of the Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club. The Rogers Centre is a huge stadium which has the world's first retractable roof which can be fully closed in just 20 minutes - better than Cardiff or Wimbledon in my opinion. U2 were booked to play on 11 July.

After speeches and presentations back at the hotel the Friendship Week ended - many happy memories had been made - what a really beautiful part of the world. A must visit for everyone!

Linda Bailey, Central London branch



Audience participation was encouraged...



The group enjoying refreshments