

Charles Summer 25 #7:

Parrsboro – Worth An Extra Day



Jim wanted to stop in Parrsboro because of Ship's Company Theatre, which he knew of but never been to. It turned out there was a preview that night of their production of Mark Crawford's *Chase the Ace*. So, we decided to make that our first Nova Scotia stop.

It was a lovely day for a drive.





Parrsboro is an interesting town – for a variety of reasons. First explored by Samuel de Champlain in the 1600s, it was later settled by Acadians. But its significance goes back much further. Parrsboro is where Canada’s oldest dinosaurs once roamed! The Fundy Geological Museum shares the area’s rich 350-million-year history of fossils, stones and dinosaur bones with exhibits and guided beach tours.

Okay, full disclosure: I took that from the Parrsboro website and we didn’t actually go to the museum.

But Jim did slow down long enough for me to take this photo.



And we saw evidence that the town is proud of its significance.



Parrsboro is also one of the best places to really see the effects of the incoming and outgoing tides. The bay snakes right through town. So, sometimes the town overlooks the water, and other times it sits beside an empty red basin.

This is a photo I stole from their tourism site, but it gives you a great idea of the layout of the town.



Ship's Company Theatre also has an interesting history. It started when the town arranged to have its famous ferry, the M.V. Kipawo, returned home from Newfoundland, in 1982. Their mission was to restore it into "a floating cultural centre, capable of housing live theatre productions, art shows, and Maritime heritage displays."

Ship's Company Theatre came into existence in 1984 when co-founders Michael Fuller and Mary Vingoe staged the first production aboard the old, dilapidated ferry vessel.

Now, it's a lovely theatre, which has a commanding presence by the bay.



And as we discovered, it's built around the hull of the Kipawo.



We checked out the town of Parrsboro and discovered a seafood restaurant that looked enticing, and a place to boondock for the night. That was all we needed!

So, we went to the theatre to buy tickets for that night's preview performance. However, we were told that the preview had been moved to the following night.

We were determined to see a show at Ship's, and we didn't have anywhere we had to be. So, we decided we'd stay an extra day and see the show the next evening.

Since we were staying two nights, we decided to look for a campground. We found Glooscap Campground and just walked in hoping they might have a spot available.

They happened to have one right near the water. Which always works for us.



It was on an amazing bay, with cliffs and a lot of that red, red clay. And we could see the tides come in and go out.

Having found a place for the night, we went to back toward town to eat at the Harbour View Restaurant, where we had a delicious fish dinner.



And a good thing too. Apparently complaining would not be in our best interest.



Then we went back to our campground and waited for the sunset. It did not disappoint.



And then, as a bonus, we also got an (almost) full moonrise.



We spent the next day just enjoying being in this spot, which was beautiful.





It was also a bit quirky.



We also explored a bit more of this interesting town.







That evening, we were pleased to find out there *would* be a preview performance of *Chase the Ace* at Ship's Theatre Company.



And when we arrived on deck, who did we run into but one of our favourite theatre designers, Holly Meyer-Dymny.

She had designed the lighting for the show.

We also discovered that another friend, Julain Molnar, was the assistant director.

Insert "Small World" comment here.



From Holly and Julain, we found out they'd had a lot of challenges, including a stage manager who'd needed an emergency appendectomy, which explained the delayed opening.

And the show comes with a huge challenge: It features one actor who plays 17 different characters! Considering all these factors, they did a great job in front of their first audience.



It was a tour de force with a lot of fun, which we knew would only be heightened with more performances. We were glad we stayed the extra day to see it.

But we were saddened to hear, only 8 days later, of the passing of Mary Vingoe, who not only co-founded Ship's Company Theatre, but was also a huge force in Canadian theatre across the country.

What a legacy she left.