

The Travel Society

Vol. 24, No. 3 April 2006

Magazine

**Prince Edward Island's Lobster Trail
Labrador? Why not!**

The Pleasures of London's Hampstead

www.thetravelsociety.com

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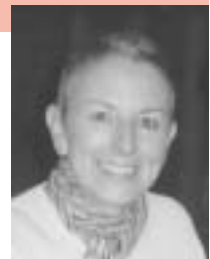
Skipper Norman Peters explains the workings of a lobster trap (Wallace)

editor's letter ...

An Anglo-Canadian issue for you this month, with stories on our own P.E.I. and Labrador (yes, "*Labrador, Why Not?*" asks our contributor Isobel Warren), while all our letters are on England and I add my two cents' worth by suggesting a stay in London's gracious 'village' of Hampstead, home of the famous Heath (and many famous people).

The United Nations World Tourism Organization, recently and officially saddled with the unattractive initials UNWTO (to differentiate it from WTO - the World Trade Organization) has reported that international tourism was up by 5.5% to 808 million arrivals in 2005. Their reports states, "Although 2005 was certainly a tumultuous year, international tourism has fared amazingly well. Despite various terrorist attacks and natural disasters, such as the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami and an extraordinarily long and strong hurricane season, the recovery, which started in 2004, continued firmly through 2005." That having been said, however, I wonder how many of you noticed a brief in *The Globe and Mail* a few weeks ago, quoted from *The Times* of London, describing a British government report, which said "The right to travel when and where we please will be severely eroded over the next 50 years as the shortage of cheap oil and environmental concerns force us to lead more local lives [and] every journey will have to be justified." The report warns that "people will find the shift to a less-mobile society painful." All I can say is, "Let's keep travelling while we can ... our stories for our grandchildren may indeed be of interest to them!"

Before I close, I promised to keep you abreast of the border ID news. Here's the latest, useless, piece of information I received in a press release. During a luncheon hosted by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs for about 200 people, U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Wilkins declared, "I promise you that this issue is being talked about at the highest levels in Washington." He didn't say outright there were moves afoot to change the law, but indicated the United States is aware there are concerns on both sides of the border about possible trade and tourism impacts. "No one wants to impede trade or tourism," Wilkins said, "that would hurt both countries." Have a happy spring!



England's West Country

Somehow the western coastline and pretty villages of southwest England had been missing from our wanderings in Britain, so the fall of 2005 seemed like a good time to rectify this situation. What a delightful choice! Our plan was to find an interesting location in which to stay while exploring the surrounding environs. Many websites offer a variety of choices but we chose an apartment for two at Treloen Holiday Apartments in the charming fishing village of Mevagissey. This proved to be perfect for our needs. These well-appointed apartments are located on a hillside above the village, overlooking a lovely, peaceful bay.



*top: Mevagissey harbour
right: Our apartment complex
bottom: View from our apartment
(Lynn)*



The attractive apartments come in various sizes and their descriptions and rates can be found on web site: www.treloen.co.uk. The week we chose, just as school was starting, was around C\$675 for the week. Coins were needed for lights, TV and stove and for the washer and dryer in another building.

Mevagissey is a 14th century flower-bedecked fishing village with a bustling double harbour. Tourists and locals wander the winding streets, stop at sidewalk cafés for “a cuppa”, or munch on fish and chips while waiting for local boat trips. Fishermen busily prepare their nets as their colourful boats become resting places for soaring seagulls and buses come and go with curious travellers. Being able to wander down to the shops on foot beats driving the two-minute route, and it leaves the narrow road to the fate of the produce trucks, buses and local traffic as they fight for the right of way.



A huge supermarket is in nearby St. Austell and we usually picked up most of our supplies there on our way home from exploring this rich area. Land's End, about 50 miles

south along N30 is a windswept point, where the foamy sea dashes the rocks far below. This is either the farthest or the first point of land in Britain, depending on your perspective. Choose a sunny day and the drive and the views are well worth it. Nearby Marazion and St. Michael's Mount are interesting as well. This castle on a sea-swept isle is just across from Mont St. Michel in France and is quite similar in its causeway access and appearance. The tide was in covering the roadway, so boats were needed to cross to the castle. Popular St. Ives is nearby too, but the congestion made trying to park impossible.

Another interesting day trip was to Boscastle, a lovely preserved village on the north coast that was utterly devastated in August 2004 by the aftermath of Hurricane Alex which swept across the Atlantic and roared way up into the town causing dreadful damage. Building and repairing is in progress and the slate houses and fences with creamy stone tops were being restored. This is a charming town with quaint shops and cafés.

Further up the coast is Tintagel Castle, King Arthur's birthplace. The Information Centre at Tintagel gives an excellent introduction to King Arthur and the Arthurian legends. King Arthur's Great Hall has vast halls presenting a wonderful story/exhibit on Alfred's life with a round table, thrones and amazing stained

glass representations of the characteristics a knight should have. A 14th century stone Old Post Office across the street is well worth a visit too. This area can get very foggy, as can Land's End, so it is helpful to watch the weather channel.

Regardless of which direction

you take from Mevagissey, there are fascinating castles to visit, seaports and gardens to see (for example The Eden Project) and delightful villages with thatched houses to explore. Towns like Penzance, St. Mawes, Falmouth, and Torquay, together with the nearby medieval thatched village of Cockington, are just waiting for visitors. Why not plan a visit? You'll love it.

*Marg Lynn
Lachine, PQ*

Driving in Britain?

Amongst advice received from VisitBritain for an upcoming visit, we were given the web site for the AA from which automobile drivers can get a detailed description of routes from departure point to destination of any proposed journey, along with estimated time. Landmarks, petrol stations, etc., are included to make the trip as foolproof as possible. I thought readers might be interested. Check it out at www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner_main.jsp?database=B.

*Stan Farrow.
Scarborough, ON*

Heathrow and London Transport News

It may be of interest to anyone flying into Heathrow that the Piccadilly tube line from Heathrow's Terminal 4 in to Central London is undergoing repairs and the line is closed until September 2006. There is also work being done on other areas of this line on weekends, so it would be a good idea to check the work schedule before you arrive in London if you plan on using the subway. The website is www.tfl.gov.uk.

The alternative Heathrow Express trains are running from terminals 1, 2 and 3 (with a free inter-terminal transfer available from terminal 4). They leave every 15 minutes and get to Paddington station in London in 15 minutes. They run seven days a week from 05:07 to 00:01. Prices are £14 one way, £26 return, express class. Tickets for both express and first class can be purchased on line at www.heathrowexpress.com for £1 less, as well as at kiosks at the airport. There is an extra charge of £2 per ticket if they are purchased on board the train.

For transportation in London there are some new fares for daily, weekly and monthly travel cards,

including the new Oyster cards for pre-paid transportation on the tube, DLR, tram links and buses. All these are cheaper and more convenient than buying tickets for each outing. The website for details of all the types of cards available is www.tfl.gov.uk/oyster.

When we're not on public transportation in London, we greatly enjoy the walks given by a company called The Original London Walks. We've participated in a lot of these. Their black and white brochures are available in many locations or tel: [011 44] 20 7624 3978, e-mail: London@walks.com, www.walks.com Happy travels!

*Thelma & Barry Sampson
Dryden, ON*

To Stanstead with Zoom Air

Zoom Air seemed to have the most suitable options for our travels to Europe and then to England in late summer of 2005 as we wished to fly into Paris and home from London Gatwick. To our chagrin, before departure we were informed that the homeward flight would be leaving from Stanstead Airport, making it impossible to depart from our daughter's home near Gatwick

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To access the site, the password will be up-dated monthly and will appear on the back page of your *Travel Society Magazine* within the address box.

You can renew your subscription on-line too!

However, we did have time to alter our British plans and thought this information might be worthwhile to

others who could find themselves in the same position. We went directly to Stanstead Airport, picked up our rental car there, and drove to a lovely small village called Stebbing, about 20 miles away. There we enjoyed The Annex at Motts Cottage, Dunmow, Essex CM6 3SE, tel: 011

44 1371 856 633, e-mail dianekittow@hotmail.com. We stayed in spacious "coach house" accommodation with garden sitting room, huge bedroom with a king and a single bed, bath, hair dryer, fridge, TV etc. for £50 per night. The softly-coloured décor was relaxing, the gardens were lovely and breakfast next morning in the main house was excellent. Later our



Motts Cottage

pleasant, helpful hostess Diane directed us up the street to the White Heart Free House for a typical pub meal.

This location proved so delightful that we returned for the last several nights and from here easily visited Ely, Cambridge, Saffron Waldon, some of the Broads and the medieval village of Coggeshall, all giving us a taste of an area – the east – not previously experienced.

Zoom was an inexpensive, pleasant way to

travel and this situation was certainly a plus. Stanstead, a smaller airport, has a petrol station at the entrance allowing one to fill up the tank before handing in the car. And our return flight to Canada was pleasant and worry free.

*Marg & Bill Lynn
Lachine, PQ*

Members are rewarded for sharing!

The TravelSociety rewards members with subscription extensions of varying lengths for all submissions published. So whether you have a letter with a travel tip or a destination to share, please write to us!

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or

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Note: If it is possible to include wheelchair-accessible information in your letters and stories I know that would be appreciated by many. Thanks! - Ed.

Travelling in Canada on Census Day?

On 16 May, 2006 it is important that all Canadian residents be included in Canada's census. If you are travelling on Census Day, either on holiday or business, you are still required to complete and return a census form.

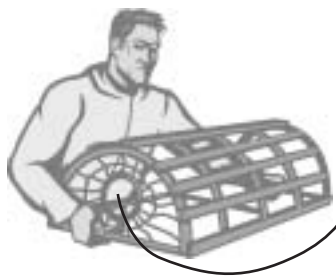
Sometime during the first two weeks of May, your census questionnaire will arrive at your household. If there is someone still at home in your household, this person should include you on the questionnaire and return it online at www.census2006.ca or by mail by 16 May. Otherwise, it will be waiting for you on your return and should be completed as soon as you get home. If you are leaving home for an extended period,

please telephone the Census Help Line at 1 877 594-2006. Officials there will fill one in with you over the telephone. TTY/TDD users can call 1 888 243-0730, free of charge.

By law, each household must provide the information requested in the census and by the same law, Statistics Canada must protect the confidentiality of the personal information provided by respondents. This means that only Statistics Canada employees who have taken an oath of secrecy and who work directly with census data will see the completed questionnaires.

Help make Canada's 2006 Census a success. **"Count yourself in" on Census Day, Tuesday, 16 May!**

On Prince Edward Island's Lobster Trail ... and other meanderings



story and photos by Ann Wallace

I was on foot, slushing through snowy streets in Toronto one day last winter, when a bright red lobster claw caught my eye. It was on a book cover in the window of one of my local bookstores: *The Secret Life of Lobsters* it was called. It sounded interesting, so in I went and bought it. And fascinating it certainly was: I learned about the east coast lobster industry, about the daily lives of lobsters, how best to cook them and – most fascinating of all – about their sex lives! I was telling all this to a colleague in Prince Edward Island Tourism at an annual reception they hold in Toronto, when she said, “I have two people coming to PEI soon specifically on a lobster tour: a Japanese documentary film maker and a Korean magazine writer. Would you like to join us?” Would I indeed!

Thus it was that on a chilly May morning I arrived in Charlottetown with the relishing of lobsters top of my mind. But, of course, I discovered far more than lobsters on this, my first, visit to our smallest province. First of all I discovered that PEI is oh so pretty, with its rolling hills and miles of sandy beaches. Add to this dozens of Provincial Parks, glorious hiking trails, fine birding locations, many museums and historic sites, a collection of lighthouses and, of course, those famous golf courses and you have an ideal spot for a little exploring, rest and relaxation with a fine lobster dinner never far away!

I was delighted to be visiting Charlottetown. Like Ottawa, Charlottetown – the historic birthplace of Canada – is a ‘must visit’ city for every Canadian, for – as we all know – it was here that the Charlottetown Conference was held in September 1864, the initial meeting to discuss the union of the colonies that would ultimately lead to the formation of Canada on 1 July, 1867. To-day historic Province House offers period vignettes, historical tours and its award-winning video *The Great Dream* to visitors, all free.

Reservations had been made for our group at PEI’s largest hotel, the medium-sized, 211-room Delta Prince Edward in Charlottetown. We were to stay there for the duration of our visit, as all our excursions were to be day trips from there. This property has been built on reclaimed land and most of the pleasant rooms look out over Charlottetown Harbour, the town’s marina and any cruise ships that happen to be in port. With a choice of restaurants, internet in all rooms, a fitness centre, spa, and all the other usual services, this is the hotel of choice for visiting businesspeople. But the property is famous for something that really appealed to our group, for on our very first morning we were introduced to chef’s delicious ‘lobster eggs Benedict’. Now those ubiquitous eggs ‘benny’ made with ham will never be quite the same.

(But of course my readers expect more suggestions that “the biggest in town” from me ... so between excursions to discover lobsters, and other PEI attractions, I set off to find a couple of other Charlottetown properties for you and these you’ll find listed below.)

Fortified by breakfast, we set out to learn more about the lobster, and the industry it supports, with visits to the PEI Food Technology Centre, a facility that provides technical support for all aspects of the food industry, and the Atlantic Veterinary College’s Lobster Science Centre. We heard that the landed value of Atlantic Canada’s lobster industry is a staggering \$600 million. We learned that about 110 million of the creatures are harvested on PEI alone every year and we met some of the 20 scientists engaged in international lobster research at PEI University’s Veterinary College, the only lobster research in the world that is integrated with a university.

In spite of our luxurious breakfast, all our learning during the morning had made us hungry, so thought of lunch in the Lucy Maud Dining Room at the Culinary Institute of Canada, located overlooking the entrance to Charlottetown Harbour, was very welcome. This teaching facility has been training aspiring chefs since 1983, and is regarded by many as the premiere culinary school in Canada, with its students regularly carrying off top awards in international competitions. No wonder our lunch was delicious. The menu here reads like a tour of Canada with beef from Alberta, lamb from Ontario, ducks from Québec, scallops from Nova Scotia’s Digby and, of course, PEI potatoes and lobster! Downstairs, the Montgomery Cafeteria serves a deservedly popular lunch for less than \$7.

Since the pursuit of lobsters, interesting creatures

though they are, was not going to fill all our time, each of us was invited to select a day trip from Charlottetown to explore the island. We put our heads together and tried to cover as much ground as possible. I had read about the sand dunes of Greenwich, Prince Edward Island National Park, on the north shore, but I was also keen to catch a glimpse of that famous bridge in the south. Our Japanese friend – Kenyo Komatsu – was interested in seeing a lobster processing plant for his documentary, but was also keen to visit a fishing village and, if possible, to take a boat ride somewhere. The young journalist from Korea – You-Shun Moon – had no problem deciding. She wanted to see the Anne of Green Gables house. “Everyone in Korea knows and loves *Anne of Green Gables*, we read it in school,” she told me. “I can’t believe I have a job that has brought me here at last!” Many months later I would receive a hefty envelope in the mail, containing Moon’s magazine. Even though I couldn’t read a word of it, it was great to see some of the many many photographs Moon took in its glossy pages and to predict that through the article many other Koreans would be lured to PEI’s shores.

Our host from Tourism PEI explained that we could do it all! We could head west from Charlottetown, see the bridge and then continue on west and visit the Acadian Fishermen’s Co-op near Abram-Village and see “something else pretty funny and interesting” en route. The following day we could visit Green Gables and still have time for the pleasures of classic lobstering village North Rustico and enjoy a lobster dinner there. Then, on our final day, we could head northeast on Hwy. 2, explore Greenwich Park for a morning, have lunch “somewhere interesting in the village of St. Peters” and then take a river cruise out of Montague in the east. We had a plan!

It’s a pretty drive (but then, in PEI, nearly all drives are pretty!) along the south shore to see the 13.9 km Confederation Bridge to New Brunswick and the ‘Gateway Village’ it has given birth to. At the time of its opening in 1997 it was the longest bridge in the world and it certainly is



The “Bottle House” bar

magnificent to see this structure disappear into the misty seascape and to marvel at its construction. One day I hope to drive across it. There's no charge to reach the island, but a fee of \$39 per car when you leave. An incentive to stay on PEI for ever?! If you drive, you'll discover Gateway Village has a popular Visitor Information Centre and a variety of shops and little restaurants.

It was at Cap-Egmont, further west along the south coast, that we made our stop to see the "something pretty funny and interesting". Called the Bottle Houses, I must admit this attraction is bizarre but intriguing. That's because, in 1979, the late Edouard Arsenaault started collecting bottles from his community which, over the next five years, he incorporated into three fantasy-like buildings using over 25,000 multi-coloured bottles. There's a bottle-glass house, a bar and a chapel, all set amongst pretty gardens with views across a meadow to the ocean. It is a fine example of recycling at its best and I took some really unusual photographs there. You have to go inside the structures to see the light coming through the bottles in order to appreciate them. Don't miss making a stop there if you're on scenic route 11; present owner Réjeanne Arsenaault will give you a warm welcome.

A little further on, close to Abram-Village, stands the Acadian Fishermen's Co-op, where around 200 people work. The plant processes scallops, clams, herring, mackerel and crab, but lobster remains the primary product. Mr Komatsu filmed and interviewed many of the seemingly-happy workers and we learned yet more about the lobster industry. Especially intriguing was the machine which squeezes every last morsel from the creatures' shells to be processed into lobster pâté. Each of us left with a small gift tin.

No need to tell fellow Canadians about Green Gables National Park which was first on our itinerary next day (though you may be interested to know there's an adjacent

inn with rental units in the grounds ... see below). But lobsters weren't far from our minds and, after our pleasing visit to Anne's famous farm, we had plenty of time to head to the nearby tiny fishing village of North Rustico where visitors can enjoy lots of on-water excursions (see www.getoutside.com) and learn more about the shellfish and fishing industries at Rustico Harbour Interpretive Centre and Museum (\$3 admission). Don't miss the beautiful painted

glass panels by P. John Burden depicting scenes from a lobsterperson's life here. We were greeted at the museum by Skipper Norman Peters (see this month's cover) who explained the workings of the lobster trap and answered our questions. And it was in North Rustico, at Fisherman's Wharf Lobster Suppers, that we enjoyed our dinner of – it's obvious – lobster, any way we wished, with a hard-to-stop starter of all-you-can eat mussels.

We were up early on our final full day, this time to head north east to Greenwich. As their brochure and Interpretation Centre explains, this region was added to PEI National Park of Canada in 1998 "to protect and preserve the significant natural and cultural resources found in the area. Among the most spectacular natural features are the high, mobile, parabolic dunes ...

[while] many rare plants grow throughout the area and the piping plover, an endangered species, nests seasonally on the north shore. Greenwich also contains traces of all the major cultures that have lived on PEI over the past 10,000 years, including Paleo-Indians, the Mi'kmaq, French and Acadian settlers and immigrants from the British Isles." There's a multi-media presentation at the Centre, a beach with supervised swimming in July and August and three clearly-marked interpretive

trails including the Dunes Trail which takes walkers on a long, floating board walk over Bowley Pond to the observation area for the dunes. A lovely spot.

After our walk we were ready for lunch. St. Peters is a



"Anne's" bedroom at Green Gables



The vast boardwalk at Greenwich

nearby village and here, at the crossroads, stands Rick's Fish 'n Chips and Seafood House (tel: 961 3438 to check opening hours). It looks welcoming but unremarkable, but Rick is far from unremarkable for he was featured in Air Canada's *EnRoute* magazine (Nov. 2003) in an article entitled "Seven People who Make Canada Taste Better!" Now that's an accolade! Oh dear ... what to choose? Chowder? Scallops? Shrimps? Cajun mussels? There was only one solution ... we each made a different choice and shared! All delicious, with prices averaging \$5 per selection and a litre of house wine at \$20.

After lunch we stretched our legs in the large St. Peters Bay Craft & Giftware store where high-quality pewter jewellery is made and watched an interesting demonstration of this craft, before driving on to Montague and our river cruise. Captain Dan Bears of Cruise Manada gives trips on the tidal estuary of the Montague River, one of Canada's Heritage Rivers. On this little trip the theme – apart from enjoying the scenery, seals and birds – was not learning about lobsters but about mussels. We passed the oldest mussel farm in North America – now 21 years old – and saw the lines of mussel socks. We learned about the 2½ years it takes from spawning to harvest and that the females sport orange outfits and the males pale yellow. Dan explained that even on a rainy day this is a popular tour; the boat is covered with a canopy and the seals, in particular love the rain and there's an enormous 'help-yourself' bowl of simmering mussels on offer on deck.

Although we all agreed we'd covered a lot of ground in our brief visit, four days isn't nearly enough time to explore PEI. It may be Canada's smallest province by far, but one could stay all summer and not see and do everything on offer. There are historic inns to visit or cottage to rent and so much to discover. As well as all the expected out-of-door offerings there are dozens of music and theatre festivals, craft and artists' stores, historic sites and, of course, fabulous food – including lobsters – everywhere!

Here are some details to help you plan your trip ...

* **Getting there:** if you don't drive across the bridge from New Brunswick or take the car ferries from Nova Scotia or Îles-de-la-Madeline you'll have to fly. Charlottetown is served by Air Canada Jazz, WestJet and Northwest Airlines. Full details at www.flypei.com. Charlottetown Airport is about 7 km from downtown and the taxi fare should be about \$12.

* **Accommodation.** For long stays on PEI renting a cottage or cabin on the beach or in the countryside is a popular way to go, and there are literally hundreds of these units available, all rated by the Tourist Board and efficiently described in their *Visitor's Guide*. Choose your district and you can be sure there will be a cottage complex there. If you go outside school holidays you can be sure of finding accommodation that appeals as you start driving around. The people at Tourism PEI were unanimous in saying "**September is the best month to visit**". I was there in May (during the spring lobster season ... the other season is in the fall) and it was unusually chilly, but good for walking and the spring flowers were out!

* If you prefer to stay in lovely inns (or, in some instances, the cottages adjacent to them) the **Inns of Distinction** group are the people to know. As their website states, "these are 22 estates and properties tucked into 13 inland and coastal communities offering an artistic and cultural journey through 200 years of island history with all the pampering luxuries of today." Details at www.innsophei.com. I popped in to two of their listed properties – the Shipwright Inn and Kindred Spirits.



The Shipwright Inn, Charlottetown

* In **Charlottetown**, the nine-room **Shipwright Inn** is a delight. Located in Olde Charlottetown it's just a five-minute walk to downtown and all its historic, cultural, waterfront, dining and shopping facilities. In keeping with its shipbuilding heritage – the property was built by an accomplished shipbuilder – the 1865 heritage house has a nautical theme and is elegant and comfortable. This property has been voted the best

B&B on PEI. Rates from \$149 from May to October, \$99 in winter. Tel: 1 888 306 9966, www.shipwrightinn.com.

* It's probably accurate to describe **The Great George Hotel** as the *grande-dame* property of Charlottetown. It's located within twelve restored properties in the heart of the Historic District, just steps from Province House. Shoulder season room rates from \$155, long-stay rates also available and there are efficiency units of varying sizes for small groups and families. Tel: 1 800 361 1118, www.innsongreatgeorge.com

*The **Delta Prince Edward**, my home for four nights, is located at 18 Queen Street, tel 1 800 268 1133, www.deltaprinceedward.pe.ca Golfers may like to note that this hotel manages all food and beverage activities for the Fox Meadows Golf and Country Club (open to the public) and there's a complimentary shuttle between the two facilities.

* Adjacent to the **Green Gables Park** near Cavendish stands **Kindred Spirits Country Inn & Cottages** ... another Victorian inn that is friendly and informal and a great place if you have children with you (“staying right next door to Anne’s house”). There’s a pool, toys and books for children, campfires and evening activities, barbecues, free movies and six acres of grounds in which to play, not to mention the beaches and dunes which are within walking distance. Tel: 902 963 2434, www.kindredspirits.ca. Lots of rates – off season, weekly, rooms and cottages – detailed on the website.

* **More food information:** The **Lucy Maud Dining Room** at the **Culinary Institute**, tel: 902 894 6868 is open for lunch and dinner daily, reservations recommended. Lunchtime main courses from \$12, dinners from \$19, with vegetarian selections available. (The bargain **Montgomery Cafeteria**, also at the Institute, is only open for lunch on Tuesdays and Fridays. Be there around noon as this facility closes at 1 p.m.)

* If you usually drive past **MacDonalds**, you may choose not to do so if you are visiting PEI (and in fact all of Atlantic Canada) between May and Labour Day. For that’s when the chain serves their McLobster: good chunks of the crustacean with lettuce, chopped celery and mayonnaise in a fresh croissant for \$5.95. It makes for a good lunch. I had two, posing for photographs underneath the golden arches for my Asian colleagues!

* If you’re in Charlottetown on a Saturday morning (Wednesdays too, in summer) don’t miss the lively little **Farmers’ Market** (opposite the University) for local food and crafts. Their local smoked salmon on a bagel with wonderful coffee is a treat.

* And I’ve just heard a word to pass on to oyster fans: Charlottetown has a brand-new spot – the **Claddagh Oyster House** offering oysters from Canada and around the world as well as fish and seafood dishes. Oysters here are shucked and served by three-time Canadian shucking champion and co-owner John Bil. Tel: 902 892 9661, www.claddaghoysterhouse.com. It looks good and I tasted some of Bill’s fabulous oysters at a PEI event in Toronto just the other evening.

* If you find yourself in Charlotte town on Sunday morning you’ll find it’s very quiet. But famous **Cora’s** restaurant is open for hearty breakfasts and brunch and it’s bustling. Enjoy the ever-so extensive menus and learn a little of Cora’s rags-to-riches story as she developed her breakfast restaurant business throughout Québec and then to other Canadian locations.

* **Green Gables National Park**, tel: 902 368 2888, www.pc.gc.ca.

* **Greenwich Park**, tel: 902 961 2514, www.parkscanada.pc.gc.ca

* **Cruise Manada Seal Watching Boat Tours**, mid May – end of September, \$20 or less, tel: 1 800 986 3444, www.tourpei.ca/seals/

* **A few dates which may be of interest:** the **PEI**

International Shellfish Festival will take place from 15-17 September. Join the rollicking fun at this “Island Kitchen Party” with music, food competitions and culinary demonstrations (many staged by the Culinary Institute mentioned above). For lots of details, including the musical line-up, www.peishellfish.com

* And new for the coming summer is a **North Rustico** learning opportunity offered by the **PEI School of the Arts**. This classic fishing port will provide plenty of inspiration for painting and photography and that’s what you can learn at two workshops scheduled for 3-7 July and 10-15 July. In addition to the painting sessions there will also be workshops on Raku pottery, tile mosaic, woodcarving and quilting. Information at www.peischoolofthearts.com.

* For your copy of the excellent **PEI Vacation Guide** call 1 888 PEI PLAY or visit www.peisplay.com and for a PEI Golf Guide (which also contains lots of accommodation listings and cottage photographs) call 1 866 GOLF PEI or check www.golfpei.ca. Charlottetown also has a website: <http://www.visitcharlottetown.com>, with a click through for Province House and all its other attractions.

* **The Food Technology Centre**, the **Veterinary College** and the **Acadian Fishermen’s Co-op** mentioned above are not tourist attractions (although there is an interesting museum at the Veterinary College where visitors are welcome to browse). However, for those who have a specialized interest in the lobster industry, arrangements can be made for private visits. Here are the contact details:

The Food Technology Centre, tel: 1 877 368 5548, www.gov.pe.ca/ftc

Atlantic Veterinary College, Lobster Research Centre, tel: 902 894 2884, www.lobsterscience.ca

Acadian Fishermen’s Co-op, tel: 902 854 2675, www.acadianfishcoop.com.

* That lobster book: **The Secret Life of Lobsters** by Trevor Corson, published by Harper Collins Canada, \$19.95.

* **PEI is famous for its golf courses.** I am not a golfer, so when subscriber Martha Lasichuk offered to tell her PEI golfing story I was delighted to accept. Details follow; **please do read even if you’re not a golfer as Martha has some good accommodation tips for everyone.** 📖



The houses that form the Great George Hotel

Great Golf – and lots of other treats – on Prince Edward Island!

by Martha Lasichuk

Don't ask me where I got the mistaken impression that Prince Edward Island would be crowded, busy, and flat! Maybe because, on a map, Canada looks so big and PEI so small, I thought it must over-populated and cramped. Twenty years ago we did some touring in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but had never been to PEI. Last summer my husband suggested we join friends for golf on that East Coast gem and we had a great time.

Summer travel requires reservations, so everything was confirmed by mid-May. We wanted to drive over the Confederation Bridge so flew from Toronto to Moncton, New Brunswick. Our travel agent also set up an intermediate-sized rental car, but we ended up with a great big, beautiful Grand Marquis, with unlimited mileage and airport pickup from Discount Rental in nearby Dieppe, NB, tel: 1 800 263 2355 www.discountcars.ca.

We consulted various internet websites, including www.peionline.com for our travel and golf course rankings and made our accommodation and tee-off arrangements in conjunction with the Rodd Hotels & Resorts, tel: 1 800 565 7633; www.rodd-hotels.ca. We agreed we had a great golf/accommodation package. Prices vary widely with day of week, season etc., but we thought we received great value. Four of us shared a brand-new, deluxe, 2-bedroom executive cottage for three nights at the Brudenell River Resort (Roseneath, PEI, PO Box 370, Montague, C0A 1R0, tel: 902 652-2332. Our package included breakfast and green fees and pre-booked tee-offs at three courses - Brudenell River, The Links at Crowbush Cove and an afternoon tee-off (after a big "Literacy Tournament") on Opening Day at Brudenell's new course – Dundarave, the opening of which was postponed from July 1 to happily coincide with our booking on July 16!

It was a lovely experience. Brudenell Resort is situated within the 1,500-acre Brudenell River Provincial Park on the river shore of the same name. It offers 50 hotel rooms and 50 riverside cottages. Some of the latter, like ours, had housekeeping facilities, including full eat-in kitchen with full-size fridge, dish-

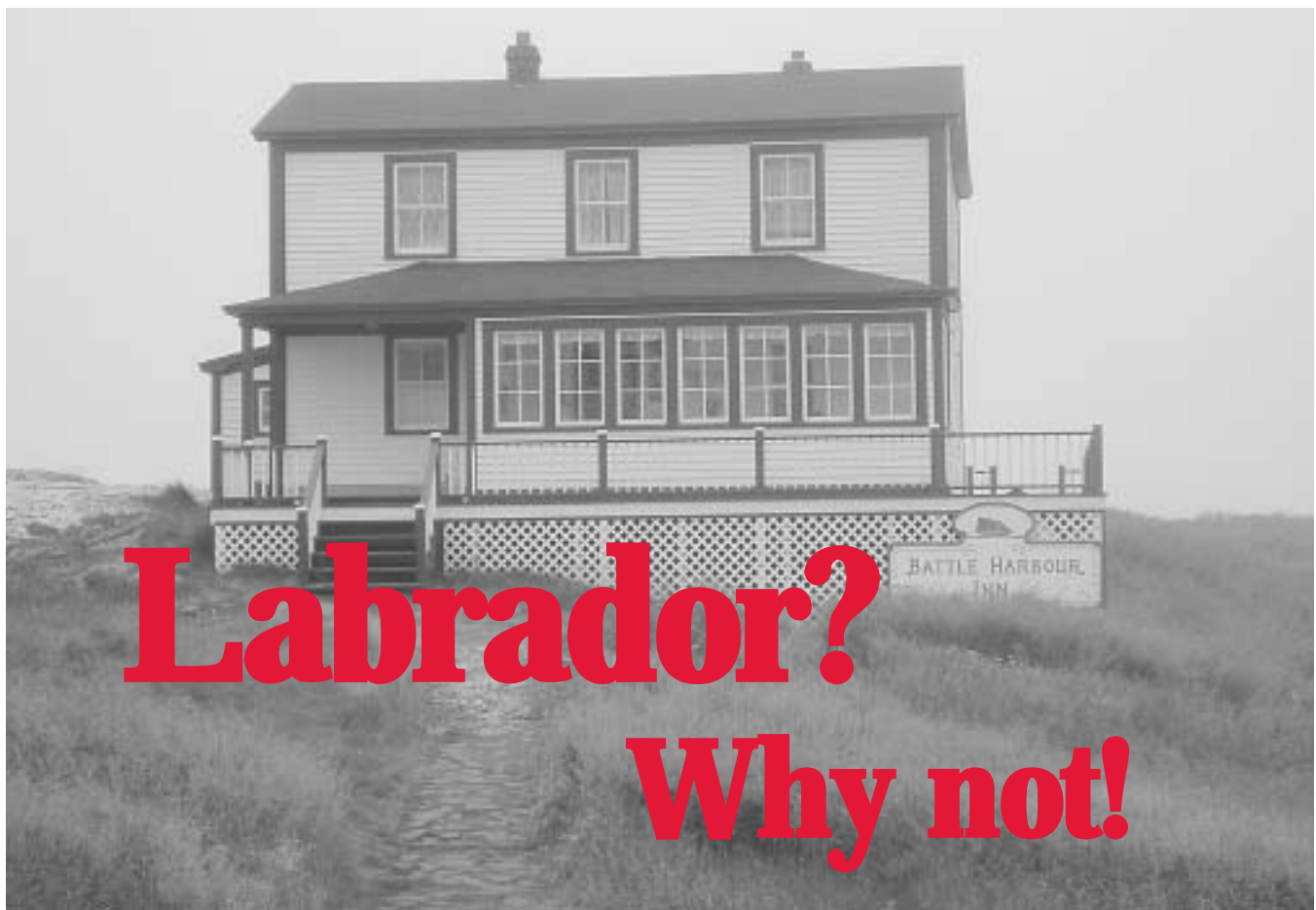
washer, microwave, gas BBQ; 1,000 sq ft of living space with fireplace, large screen TV, king guestroom & guestroom with two queen beds, private washroom for each bedroom, whirlpool bathtub. With this great accommodation we could enjoy activities such as tennis, lawn bowling, canoeing and kayaking, wind surfing and other watersports and beach activities, biking, the swimming pool and so on.

Golfing conditions at all three courses were super – our favourite, and destined to be popular, was the newest course, Dundarave. The Links at Crowbush Cove is worthy of its reputation and was certainly a seaside challenge; Brudenell was scenic and woody with spectacular views, but Dundarave gave us most pleasure (and my best game)! Brudenell now has the distinction of being the first 36-hole golf complex in Atlantic Canada.

We did some driving around on this part of the island, including stops at Dalvay By the Sea Heritage Inn & Dining Room in Grand Tracadie (tel: 1 888 366 2955, www.aco.ca/dalvay) and through the northern coast where PEI National Park has beautiful dune beaches. The laid-back hospitality is lovely and there are many artisan and craft workshops and stores in the area. Noteworthy is The Dunes Studio Gallery (on Rte 15, south of the National Park, Brackley Beach) where 70 leading artists offer their unique Canadian crafts for sale. The Gallery features paintings, prints, photography, sculptures, jewellery and a fine selection of island books.

We then drove to the other end of the island and continued at Rodd Hotels with a two-night stay, including breakfast & golf each day, on the island's western coast at the Mill River Resort (Woodstock, PO Box 399, O'Leary, C0B 1V0, tel: 902 859-3555). This 90-room resort provides good facilities and is a great base from which to take driving and walking tours of the local area - small towns, villages and beaches.

I'm glad I had this opportunity to correct some faulty impressions and gain some travel experiences in our own very beautiful country. Yes, I was especially impressed by the serene and peaceful wonderland we call Prince Edward Island. 🏡



Story by Isobel Warren, photos by Milan Chvostek

Editor's note: Following my recent visits to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, I was able to claim that I had visited all our Atlantic Provinces. Reflecting on this fact with my colleague, travel writer Isobel Warren, I was gently admonished with the words "Ah ... technically yes ... but you haven't visited Labrador, have you? And it's well worth exploring." "Can you tell me and our members about it?" I asked. "I'd be delighted to," Isobel replied. So here's her report for those of you considering exploring places eastwards. And it's a small world ... Isobel and Milan met The Travel Society's friendly mailman John while travelling in Labrador!

Why not indeed! This neglected corner of Canada offers intrepid travellers an appealing mix of spectacular scenery, swashbuckling history and down-home hospitality. And now the coastal highway, newly extended from the Québec border at Blanc Sablon to Cartwright, 245 km. north, makes exploration a driving pleasure.

Partly unpaved, but broad and smooth, Highway 510 cuts through towering canyons of pink granite that occasionally interrupt the view of the Strait of Belle Isle, with its sparkling bays sprinkled with snow-white houses. But the

road delivers more than stunning photo ops. We encountered festivals and parties, great food, cosy B&Bs and memorable historic sites. Our early September weather was idyllic with just a splash of rain to set the ghostly scene at Battle Harbour.

Ah, **Battle Harbour** – the fishing village that died and lives again, thanks to the vision and tenacity of a former government official and a handful of disenfranchised fishermen. An hour by ferry from Mary's Harbour, Battle Harbour was once Labrador's unofficial capital, boasting the region's first hospital (compliments of Sir Wilfred Grenfell), a Marconi long-range station (where Sir Robert Peary bragged

about reaching the North Pole), a church, a school and a thriving fishing and cod-processing industry. Depleted cod-fish stocks and government indifference reduced the village to ghost status and wind and weather were all set to finish the job, until Gordon Slade, then deputy minister of fisheries, set about saving it for posterity. Led by long-time fisherman Mike Earl, a team of unemployed fishermen turned their boat-building skills to heritage restoration and transformed Battle Harbour into a remarkable museum. They've restored 22 buildings and as funds materialize (Battle Harbour relies almost entirely on charitable donations) more will follow. Whale and bird-watching, naturalist programmes and an iceberg photography workshop highlight the summer.

The ferry makes two round trips daily but a one-day visit means missing out on the magic of the island at dawn and dusk, the camaraderie of a family-style dinner in the general store, and overnight in one of the reclaimed buildings: the doctor's house, the police house (once headquarters of the legendary Newfoundland Rangers), or the manager's house, all furnished with antiques and cosy quilts (see details below).

Mary's Harbour, on the mainland, will be especially worth a visit this summer when it celebrates its 75th birthday with a 'Come Home' party that coincides with its annual Crab Festival (5 – 7 August). It starts with a crab bake-off, testing the mettle of local chefs, plus an all-you-can eat crab buffet with shrimp on the side. And, like most Labrador par-

rooms and this summer's plans include field courses, seminars and maybe even an artist in residence.

Close to the lighthouse, the Davis family presides over Lighthouse Cove B&B (see below), where visiting piano players are welcome to tinkle the ivories (genuine ivories, by the way) of their antique piano. When the *HMS Raleigh* ran aground just below their home in 1922, the entire region, with typical maritime hospitality, sheltered the 700-member crew in their homes, fishing sheds and tents. Mrs. Davis' mother-in-law housed the captain and six officers. In appreciation, they were invited to venture aboard the listing ship to claim the piano, finely inlaid with mother-of-pearl, to grace the sitting room.

An interpretive trail leads from the lighthouse to the shipwreck site and each year local residents don costumes and, led by Mrs. Davis' daughter Lisa, stage a 'ghost walk' – a re-enactment of the *Raleigh's* demise that typically winds up with giant bonfires on the shore, inviting hot dog and marshmallow roasting and a jolly singsong. This year's ghost walk is 10 August, followed by the annual Bake Apple Festival, 11-13 August, at nearby **Forteau** where local talents – musical, culinary and artisan – will be showcased.

Accommodations along the Labrador coast are steadily improving. Major towns boast a motel or self-service cottages, but we preferred local hospitality homes and their welcoming hosts. Immaculate rooms (most with shared baths), lush quilts and sun-dried sheets, rarely exceed \$60 a night. Breakfasts serve up such offerings as home-made

It starts with a crab bake-off, testing the mettle of local chefs, plus an all-you-can eat crab buffet with shrimp on the side. And it winds up with square dancing and rollicking accordion music

ties, it winds up with square dancing and rollicking accordion music.

Returning south, we visited the Parks Canada museum at **Red Bay** where the Basque whaling industry flourished some 400 years ago. The Basques came by the thousands each spring, to slaughter whale for oil for Europe's lamps, soap, pharmaceuticals, cloth and leather. In peak years, 2,500 whalers produced 20,000 barrels of oil, each worth \$4,000 to \$6,000 in today's terms. A detailed replica of a rendering station, complete with rank-smelling samples of whale oil, a 400-year-old fishing boat or 'chalupa', and a small scale replica of the mighty ship, the *San Juan*, which sank just off-shore with a full load of oil, are highlights.

Near the Québec border at **L'Anse Amour**, stands Atlantic Canada's tallest lighthouse – 109 feet from rock to massive Fresnel lens, a marvel of engineering when it opened in 1858 and still casting its light 18.5 nautical miles across treacherous seas. In the restored lightkeeper's residence, Bonnie Goudie, director of the Straits Development Corporation, traced the light's majestic past and outlined future plans, which focus primarily on natural history. Last year, some 30 mycologists gathered here to study mush-

breadcrumbs topped with blueberry, partridge berry or golden bakeapple jams. Most hosts will accept your advance order for dinner for about \$15 per person ... now that's our style.

Due to a technical glitch, this year's *Newfoundland & Labrador Travel Guide* failed to include several of the excellent establishments mentioned here. This is hard for the owners, as the provincial guide is their major source of publicity, so I hope some *Travel Society Magazine* readers will set out to discover them.

* **Grenfell Louie Hall B&B** at **Forteau** recalls its noble history as sole health resource for a vast swath of Labrador. Fascinating memorabilia – scrap books, old photos, artifacts and reams of newspaper and magazine clippings – tell tales of courageous nurses and doctors who sallied forth by dog sled to tend the sick, deliver babies or bring extreme cases back to the Mission. Host Peggy Hancock and her husband, Dwight Howell, were both born there and bought the building after the nursing station closed, transforming it into a comfortable B&B. Five rooms, \$50 to \$65 dbl. Visa and MC accepted, tel: 1 877 931 2916, www.grenfellbandb.ca.

* **Beachside Hospitality Home**, at nearby **L'Anse au**

Clair, is just minutes away from the Labrador ferry. Here hostess Gloria Letto specializes in fish or moose dinners (three hearty courses for about \$18, to be ordered in advance) while her husband, Norm, entertains guests with step-dance tunes played on his button accordion. Norm represents another little-known aspect of Labrador history. His people came from the British Channel Island of Jersey four generations ago. Today there's an archaeological dig nearby – the Jersey Room Project – with walking trails and displays of artifacts, which will welcome its first visitors this year. Three rooms, \$38-\$45 dbl. Visa, MC, tel: 709 931 2338.

* At **Barney's B&B** at **L'Anse au Loup**, fish and brewis, the savoury seafood stew made with hardtack or sea biscuits, is Mary Barney's dinner specialty (about \$12). BBQ, kitchen and laundry are available to guests here and there's salmon and trout fishing nearby. Three rooms, \$35-\$45, MC, tel: 709 927 5634. Also at L'Anse au Loup, save room for a treat at **Dot's Coffee Shop and Bakery** on the main highway, where Dot Barney bakes light-as-air cinnamon buns, butter pecan tarts, partridgeberry pies and, at lunchtime, an excellent chili. Mon-Sat, 7 a.m. -11 p.m. Tel: 709 927 5311.

* At **Red Bay**, it's wonderful to settle into a deep couch in Wade and Blanche Earle's **Basinview B&B** living room to enjoy the uninterrupted vista of the sea below while awaiting Mrs. Earle's caribou stew or pan-fried cod dinner (\$12). Here there are four non-smoking rooms, three with shared bath for \$57.50 or \$75 for the en suite room. MC. Tel: 709 920 2002 or e-mail blanchearle@hotmail.com.

* Get set for great story telling and the above-mentioned ship's piano at **Lighthouse Cove B&B, Cape Amour**. The Davis men are fisherfolk and if you order in advance Rita Davis will transform their catch into a gourmet delight (\$15) for you. Three groundfloor rooms, \$40 dbl., Visa, MC. Tel: 709 927 5690, lighthousecovebedandbreakfast@yahoo.com

* At **Battle Harbour Museum**, overnight rates range from \$25 for a bed in the bunkhouse to \$150 at the Inn (see

photo p.12), meals extra. The hour-long ferry ride is \$40 return and there's free parking at Mary's Harbour. Tel: 709 921 6325; information@battleharbour.com or consult the website at www.battleharbour.com for full details.

* At **Mary's Harbour, RiverLodge Hotel** is a comfortable hostelry where crab is king of the dining room. Hostess Barb Rumbolt is an enthusiastic ambassador for Labrador and her own town, directing guests to the best fishing, hiking, and sightseeing. 15 rooms, dining room, lounge, \$85-\$100, Visa, MC, AmEx. Tel: 709 921 6948, www.riverlodgehotel.com.

* **Point Amour Lighthouse**, off Hwy. 510 between **Forteau** and **L'Anse au Loup**, is open mid-June to mid-October, 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Admission \$3, www.pointamourlighthouse.ca.

* **Red Bay National Historic Site** is open mid-June to early October, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Admission \$7. Information at 709 920 2051, www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/nl/redbay/

* **Getting there:** if driving from your home is not an option for you, CanJet and Air Canada offer flights to Deer Lake, NFLD, where you can rent a car. From there, the 365 km. drive north borders magnificent Gros Morne Park and Newfoundland's western shore, leading to St. Barbe and the daily car ferry to Blanc Sablon, just south of the Québec/Labrador border. The 1.5 hour ride costs \$45 for two adults and car. Reservations: **1 866 535**



Dot Barney shows off her baked goods at Dot's Coffee Shop, L'Anse au Loup

2567.

* **When to go:** prime season for Labrador travel is late May to late September, though true adventure-seekers sally forth in winter for snowmobiling, dog-sledding, ice fishing and northern lights.

* Newfoundland and Labrador's free **Travel Guide** can be yours by calling 1 800 563 NFLD or visit www.gov.nl.ca/tourism. As mentioned, it was only due to a technical printing error that this year's guide failed to include several of the excellent properties mentioned above.





The Pleasures of London's Hampstead

story and photos by Ann Wallace

What a surprise, to come across Giancarlo Neri's enormous piece of installation art - entitled "The Writer" - while walking on Hampstead Heath!

Perhaps you are thinking of visiting London? Perhaps you have been many times before, for London is full of treasures and pleasures that would take a lifetime to discover. But, yes, it is expensive and, yes, it is almost overwhelmingly large and busy. Yet its transportation system is vast and efficient and once you get your bearings you can easily cover a great deal of ground. Have you ever considered staying a little out of the centre, in a pleasant residential area that is easily accessible to central London yet which offers its own unique attractions, wide open spaces, fabulous restaurants and pubs and chic shops? "Is there such a place?" I can almost hear you asking.

Yes indeed there is. Base yourself in Hampstead, in London's northwest, and you can be in Central London via underground in about 15 minutes. (Once, a friend and I left

a pub patio in Hampstead and were in our seats in a theatre close to Leicester square in less than half an hour!) You can enjoy days in the city, yet return in the evening to stroll or relax on the famous Heath and enjoy dinner in one of the 'village's' many trendy restaurants. You are also sure to spend a couple of days enjoying the riches and treasures of Hampstead itself. For Hampstead is pleasant indeed and an important destination for art lovers. That's because, adjacent to the Heath, stands majestic Kenwood House, home to one of the finest collections of Old Masters given to the nation in the 20th century. You think I exaggerate? How about a rare Vermeer (well, any great work of art is rare, but Vermeer painted so few that it's always thrilling to see one), a Turner, works by Gainsborough, Hals, Van Dyck and Reynolds and a Rembrandt. If nothing else will lure you to Kenwood, surely the Rembrandt – considered one of the

world's greatest masterpieces – will. Again you think I exaggerate? Well, if you turn to page 19 you will find a review of a new art guide entitled *100 Best Paintings in London*. In the Introduction to this guide, art historian and author Geoffrey Smith states that if he were pressed to list his top *ten* out of the 100 works he has chosen, Rembrandt's *Self Portrait with Two Circles* at Kenwood House (painted about three years before Rembrandt's death) would top the list. And there's another superlative in the guidebook to the House itself: "No art collection in London enjoys a more idyllic setting." I can vouch for that.

Apart from its important art collection, Kenwood House holds many other treasures, beautiful décor, fine gardens with views over the Heath to London, art in the gardens (including works by Henry Moore) and, of course, as the origins of the house date back to 1616, an interesting history. One of the highlights is the Library or 'Great Room', an exquisite saloon designed by master architect Robert Adam and, to quote the guidebook again, "considered by many to be Adam's masterpiece, and as such one of the finest interiors of 18th century Britain."

Kenwood House, an English Heritage property, is open daily, admission is free, the ground floor – home to the major treasures – is wheelchair accessible, the Brew House Café (with terrace) serves home-made food throughout opening hours or you are welcome to take a picnic (you'll find lots of goodies on sale in Hampstead itself) to enjoy in the grounds. And speaking of picnics, during the summer months there are outdoor popular and classical concerts held in the grounds of Kenwood. Tel: 20 8348 1286, www.english-heritage.org.uk and www.picnicconcerts.com. The house is located a pleasant one-mile walk from Hampstead Underground station.

Which brings me to other walks. It is hard to believe that Hampstead Heath is only four miles from Trafalgar Square. This 320 hectare wild place of woodland, grassland, ponds and gardens is a haven for Hampstead residents, visitors and wildlife. It is often home to interesting art installations and a variety of year-round activities. There are miles of paths and trails, some designated for cyclists and horses. There are also clean, natural swimming ponds here; you can choose the Ladies', Gentlemen's or Mixed Bathing Ponds, in which you will join many locals, some of whom swim every day of the year, even breaking the occasional thin winter ice to do so! For information on the Heath and the many activities that take place there visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces.

Hampstead is also home to Keats' house, a gracious but modest abode indeed after the splendours of Kenwood. The curators here try hard with the small collection of artifacts at their disposal, but unless you are an ardent fan of Keats and yearn to sit in the garden where, it is said, he heard that immortalized nightingale, a quick visit will suffice. The house stands in Keats Grove, tel: 20 7435 2062, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/keats, open daily, admission £3 or less (£1 = C\$2 ... the lowest exchange

rate for several years!).

Freud was another famous resident of Hampstead and his house is more opulent than Keats' ... testament to the fact that there was – as today – more money in psycho-analysis than poetry, perhaps? It is open to the public and contains Freud's fine collection of antiquities, his library and furniture, including that world-famous couch. The property is located on Maresfield Gardens, with the nearest underground station, in this instance, being Finchley Road (then follow the signposts). Open afternoons Wednesday – Sunday, admission £5, information at 20 7435 2002, www.freud.org.uk.

The Hampstead Museum in Burgh House was also on my list of places to see on my visit last summer. I enjoyed following the walking directions past so many gracious homes, but was disappointed when I reached my destination to find that the house was closed for renovations. It will be open now, however, and I hope to return soon to learn more of Hampstead's history, which includes a display on the artist John Constable, another of the area's famous residents. Admission is free, tel: 20 7431 0144 for information (which I should have done before setting out!), www.burghhouse.org.uk

Another attraction on my list for my next visit is Fenton House, described in its leaflet as "London's most enchanting country house" (my, more superlatives for Hampstead), with its unique collections of early keyboard instruments, porcelain and rare examples of 17th century needlework pictures as well as its walled garden and orchard. For music lovers there's a series of summer recitals ... unique in that the historic keyboard instruments of the house are used. Fenton is a National Trust property and there's information at www.nationaltrust.org.uk or by calling 1494 755 563. Admission £4.80 or less, opening hours vary with the season.

By now you will have realized that the residents of Hampstead are a well-heeled lot (you may spot some celebrities), not given to opening their homes as B&Bs but,



A section of Hampstead's High Street



*Kenwood House
(above) and Keats' House
(right), both
in Hampstead,
London*



8000, e-mail: booking@thehousehotel.co.uk, www.thehousehotel.co.uk. Rates with continental breakfast from £145 with seasonal and Sunday/Monday night discounts of 25% and 35% respectively.

Both these properties have restaurants, but while in Hampstead you're certainly not starved for choice. The Freemason's Arms on Downshire Hill is great and has a terrace while The Wells on Well Walk is oh-so trendy and offers set-menu dinners in its three gracious upstairs rooms for £25. For Indian-food lovers, The Bombay Bicycle Club, also on Downshire Hill, has been popular for over 20 years (and has great vegetarian selections), while newer choices include such offerings as Thai and Moroccan. Yes, you certainly can eat well in England!

Insight Guides' *London* has a section entitled "London Villages" which explains that London grew to its great size by swallowing villages – Richmond, Dulwich, Greenwich, Notting Hill and others, each with distinctive characteristics. Of Hampstead the guide states, "[It] has long been regarded as one of the most desirable addresses in the city. Today's media, literary, film and music luminaries live in the same houses as the famous of previous centuries. Bishop's Avenue, between Highgate and Hampstead, has earned the sobriquet Millionaire's

Row. Open spaces predominate ... [with] splendid views across London." Perhaps on your next visit to London you will consider making Hampstead your temporary home ... I'm sure you will enjoy all it has to offer. 🍷

as well as a Holiday Inn, there are two centrally-located properties for visitors. The rooms aren't luxurious but the location is fabulous and the welcome from Bernardo Stella warm indeed. This is at La Gaffe in the heart of Hampstead village, long a popular restaurant and wine bar housed in a 1734 property that was once a shepherd's home in the heart of the countryside! Today it promises "Italian hospitality in beautiful Hampstead" and the restaurant is very popular. There are 18 en suite, "absolutely no smoking" rooms here in this higgledy-piggledy house, all with TV, telephone and tea- and coffee-making facilities. They are not luxurious but the location and the prices can't be beaten for such a lovely part of London: double rooms from £95, studio room (with kitchen facilities) £125. Cold buffet breakfast included. La Gaffe, 107-111 Heath Street, London NW3 6SS, tel: [011 44] 20 7435 8965, e-mail: La-Gaffe@msn.com, www.LaGaffe.co.uk.

For those with deeper pockets (although the location is not quite so charming) the House Hotel is elegant and stylish with a "very English"-style bar and exotically decorated dining room. With a recording studio nearby, I was told this is often the hotel of choice for musicians and stars. The House Hotel is located at 2 Roslyn Hill (a continuation of Hampstead High Street), London NW3 1PH, tel: 20 7431

Next month we will be bringing you brief details of two other appealing locations for an out-of-central-London stay: Windsor (home of the famous castle) and Epsom (home of the famous races) – Ed.



There's "The Writer" again!

Routes to Learning Canada, our largest not-for-profit educational travel organization for adults 55 and over, has some great new programmes across Canada and abroad for the coming seasons. How about “**Chateaux and Castles of the St. Lawrence Seaway**”, “**Encore! Encore! Ontario Theatre**”, “**Traditions, Treasures and Legacies**” (a themed tour of Ottawa, Montréal and Québec City, “**Discover the Untamed Beauty of Newfoundland**”, “**British Columbia’s Lighthouses and Coastal Communities**” and much more, all of them with “behind the scenes” excursions. For full details call 1 866 745 1690, www.routestolearning.ca.

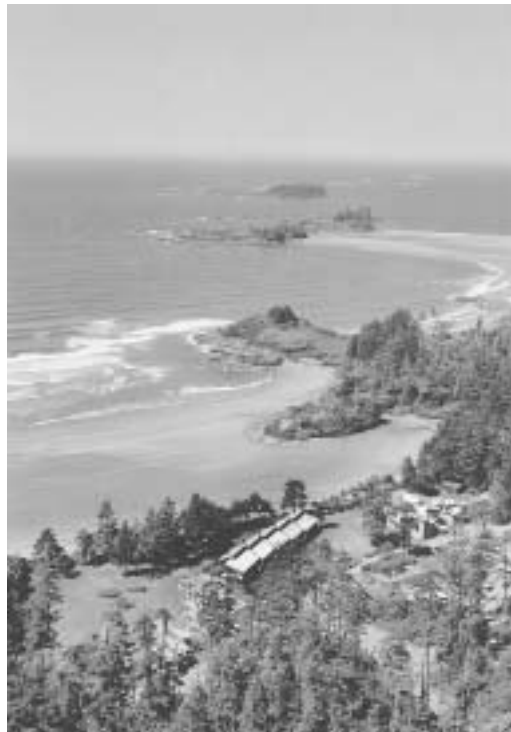
Heritage Cruise Lines’ *m.v. Georgian Clipper* will be sailing a five night/six day schedule in the Thousand Islands and Bay of Quinte region of eastern Ontario from 3 June – 11 October. Sailing in and out of Kingston, the ship calls at Picton, Brockville, Rockport and Gananoque – a beautiful region. Refurbished for the 2006 season, the *Georgian Clipper* is a 78 ft vessel, with room for 18 guests in nine private cabins, each with a large picture window and wash-room with shower. Heritage Cruise Lines’ ‘open bridge’ policy allows all guests to enjoy the atmosphere of a working ship’s wheelhouse, where they will be able to read the charts, understand how a GPS works and listen in to radio-traffic and communication along the St. Lawrence River. For more information call 1 888 271 2628 or visit www.heritagecruises.com.

And before you make plans to come to – or stay – in Ontario, we’d like to tell you about the **2006 Ontario Traveller’s Companion** just released by the non-profit Ontario Accommodation Association (OAA) and available free of charge by calling 1 800 461 1972, e-mail: info@ontarioaccommodation.com or order online at www.ontarioaccommodation.com. Sub-titled “Your Source for Ontario Accommodation,” this year’s edition is the largest ever, listing 1,000 members, with a map showing every Ontario city and town where OAA members are located.

At a recent Canadian tourism convention, Editor Ann met the friendly folk from Parksville and Qualicum Beach who were eager to tell about their **Oceanside**

Vancouver Island destination. With its beaches and warm shallow waters overlooking the Strait of Georgia this looks like a great place for a family holiday. As well as the beach, there are gardens, farm visits, wildlife refuges, farmers’ markets, biking and hiking trails, a parrot refuge, ‘a big bug jungle’, many regional and Provincial parks and more. The region is just minutes north of the Nanaimo ferry terminal or a scenic two-hour drive from Victoria. For a copy of the area’s tourism brochure call 1 888 752 9532, www.oceansidetourism.com.

Still on **Vancouver Island**, perhaps this will be the year you go hiking on the **West Coast Trail** of the **Pacific Rim National Park Reserve** – 75 kilometres (47 miles) of sandstone cliffs, waterfalls and caves, sea arches and endless beaches. This is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Born from tragedy, the West Coast Trail’s early beginnings harken back to the sinking of the *s.s. Valencia* – an iron steamship originally built in Philadelphia. The *Valencia* was lost one hundred years ago, on 22 January, 1906, off BC’s west coast, with only a few survivors making their way to the shorelines where they had to navigate the coastline to safety. Contrary to popular myth, the West Coast Trail is not always brimming with would-be adventurers even today. Some 8,000 permits are allocated each year and while reservations are preferred (July and August are busy months), early spring and late fall do not require such paperwork and charges are reduced in these shoulder seasons. But bear in mind you must be well prepared. For more information on hiking and staying in this spectacular, one-of-a-kind park, call 250 726 7721 or visit www.pc.gc.ca/pacificrim.



Pacific Sands Beach Resort

For accommodation just outside the Pacific Rim National Park’s northern border, and 8 km south of Tofino, you may like to investigate staying at the Pacific Sands Beach Resort where cottages, studios, 1- and 2-bedroom suites await guests. Quite expensive, but the cost of a 2- or 3-bedroom unit shared definitely takes the sting out of the cost. This environmentally-responsible resort is spread over 45 acres of land and beach and offers a wide range of activities. For more details call 1 800 565 2322 or visit www.pacificsands.com (a site that, with its reversed white on black print, is unfortunately rather difficult to read).

How about a themed guide to London for art lovers? Most people love reading lists made public by others. “The 100 best books ...”, “My favourite movies” and so on. So how about taking a copy of art-lover Geoffrey Smith’s *100 Best Paintings in London* on your next trip to the UK capital. As Mr Smith writes in his introduction: “The busy visitor or tourist will, I hope, welcome a pointer to where the best paintings can be seen. London is such a vast and unfathomable city that it is hard for someone who has limited time to focus on how to spend their time. If one of the reasons you have come to London is to explore the visual arts (and that is increasingly the reason why many people travel to the great cities of the world) then I believe that this book will be invaluable. ... Of course, the choices I have made will be open to criticism – any subjective choice by one individual is bound to be challenged. ... And that is why, you, the reader, are cordially invited to put me straight, to show me the error of my ways, to enlighten me as to which of these paintings do not deserve their top 100 slot and which works should replace those in the book.” The volume is small enough to travel with, but handsome enough to be a fine addition to your library and a great souvenir of your London visit, with each painting reproduced in full colour with a commentary by the author. There are ten London galleries covered: The National, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, The Courtauld Institute, Dulwich Picture Gallery, The Estorick Collection, Kenwood House, Sir John Soane’s Museum, The Victoria & Albert Museum and the Wallace Collection. Each section contains helpful details about the gallery under consideration: opening hours, admission, how to get there, access for the disabled, the gallery shop and restaurant/café details (for example readers are told of the Tate Modern’s Restaurant on Level 7 “with spectacular views over London” ... surely a good place around which to plan a visit). Published by Interlink Publishing Group, www.interlinkbooks.com, 250 pp, C\$29.00.

Perhaps France is in your plans? If so, and if you love to walk, you’ll also enjoy owning *Walking in France: Exploring France’s Great Towns and Finest Landscapes on Foot* by

Gillian and John Souter, another offering from Interlink Publishing (288 pp, C\$26.95). And if walking in France *isn’t* in your plans this delightful book may change that! It’s a normal-size book, but it contains within its glossy pages beautiful photographs, maps, distances, classifications of the walks (‘easy’ to ‘strenuous’, mostly the former), how to access the start (and finish) of each walk by public transport, historical and natural highlights and even details of shops to buy your picnics! The city walks give the best routes whereby to see the highlights, together with museum opening hours, and there are details of a medium-strenuous 6-day walk on the island of Corsica. The book doesn’t list accommodations, but details of the local Tourist Office are given for each walk (including websites) so, together with a guidebook giving accommodation suggestions, it should be fairly easy to plan some wonderful walking tours.

Keen cruisers – or those considering exploring the possibilities – may like to invest in a book entitled *Complete Guide to Cruising & Cruise Ships 2006* by Douglas Ward, published by Berlitz (672 dense pages, C\$37.50, www.berlitzpublishing.com). The cover tells that Mr Ward is “the world’s foremost authority on cruising” and is president of the Maritime Evaluations Group, an independent international agency that rates cruise ships worldwide. The contents of the book certainly ring true and make for some fascinating reading, whether you’re a cruiser or not: “food is unmemorable”, “this is cruising in theme-park fantasyland”, “photographers always seem to be in your face”, “this [ship] is for hardy, adventurous types”, “few passengers appear to be over 40”, “the noise pollution is high throughout the ship, with constant repetitive announcements and music throughout all hallways and on open decks. Smokers are everywhere – there is no escape.” Of course, not all the news is bad, but referring to this book could certainly prevent some unwise decisions. There are chapters on “Expedition Cruises” and the “Big 7” cruise lines and “who does what best” among them. The book also contains excellent information for the handicapped, for those travelling with children, the best cabins, extras and budgeting and so on. And to put a smile on your face, do read “A Passenger’s Prayer” on page 551! Enjoy!

- First of all, some news of a general nature for air travellers. The **Canadian Transportation Agency** has just published a brand-new edition of the *Fly Smart* booklet that is packed with important information on air travel: subjects such as fares and ticketing, reservations and check-in, baggage, travel documents and information on dealing with flight delays and cancellations. This free, pocket-sized booklet provides useful hints to air travellers, especially on their rights and responsibilities, to help them experience problem-free flights. For example, it explains how travellers can save money if they are flexible about when they travel; how to avoid being 'bumped' from a flight due to over-booking, learn what to pack and what to carry on board and what to expect when baggage is delayed, damaged or lost. Advice is also given on how to deal with problems and travellers are reminded that if their complaints are not resolved to their satisfaction, help can be obtained from the Transportation Agency. The booklet is available on the CTA's website – www.cta.gc.ca – or call 1 888 222-2592, from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., EST. The CTA is an independent, quasi-judicial tribunal that regulates various modes of transportation under Government of Canada jurisdiction, including air, marine and rail.
- Getting from the airport to the city. Back in the dark days before the worldwide web, we told you about a handy little book ... the *Salk International Airport Transit Guide: How to Get From the Airport to the City Worldwide*. Now all this useful information is online at www.airporttransitguide.com/taedge/intro.htm where the little guide itself can also be ordered if you prefer to have a hard copy. On line information, however, is the same as that found in the book: taxis, airport buses, public transportation and so on together with prices, frequencies, tipping advice and access for the handicapped.
- Now news of some new routes. **Air Canada** has launched daily, year-round service between **Edmonton** and **Montreal** and between **Calgary** and **New York (JFK)**, both routes using their new Embraer E190 jets. The new Embraer jets are outfitted with Air Canada's new personal entertainment system that is being introduced fleet-wide, and features 23-cm wide digital in-seat monitors with touch-screen controls offering audio and video on-demand programming at every seat. Other amenities include Air Canada's new seating and cabin design with in-seat power within reach of every customer, **no middle seats**, spacious overhead bins and cabin interiors that offer plenty of head room with

extra-wide aisles. The airline is expanding other routes from Edmonton, including daily non-stop flights to Los Angeles starting 1 May and additional daily flights to Ottawa, Winnipeg, Fort McMurray and Grand Prairie.

- While on the subject of **Air Canada**, Editor Ann would like to tell readers that on her UK trip last year she took the AC day flight to Heathrow instead of the usual overnight flight. "Departing Toronto at 09:00 put me in to Heathrow at 21.15. Another hour or so took me to my destination. This was in good time to share a drink with my hosts, after which I stayed up for a while unpacking and reading but had no trouble falling asleep and had no jet lag whatsoever on the following day. For those for whom flying across the Atlantic creates a hard-to-overcome jetlag problem, this day flight may be the answer – Ed."
- Starting June 25 (until 27 August) **Air Transat** will fly non-stop between **Ottawa** and **Paris** aboard Airbus 310 and 330. Transat Holidays offers substantial savings on the Ottawa-Paris route compared to its other Paris routes, due to lower airport fees at Ottawa International Airport. Air Transat's Club Class seats will be available on the Ottawa-Paris flights offering passengers a choice of four meals and wine options. For more information visit www.transatholidays.com.
- In good time to explore western **Newfoundland** and, perhaps, take that trip over to **Labrador**, **CanJet** will be introducing a non-stop **Toronto-Deer Lake** service via Boeing 737 effective 26 June.
- **WestJet's** service continues to grow apace with new, non-stop summer routes across **Canada: Edmonton to Halifax** (commencing 24 June), **Toronto to Abbotsford** (from 13 June) and **Vancouver to Ottawa** (from 22 August, non-seasonal). And effective 13 June through to 22 August, **WestJet** will also increase the number of non-stop flights between cities in its existing route network as follows: **Toronto** and **Calgary** 8 non-stop flights per day, **Vancouver** and **Edmonton** 7, **Edmonton** and **Winnipeg** 3, **Edmonton** and **Victoria** 3, **Edmonton** and **Hamilton** 2. Congratulations to WestJet on its ever-increasing success. I've flown with them several times over the past year and everything was smooth, efficient (but remember to take a sandwich) and the staff members at check-in and the crew in the air really are friendly. If you have a window seat, look out - the ground crew will be lined up to wave "bye-bye" to you and they love it if you wave back! – Ed.

22 days from \$5,995

Limited to 20 Members
Fully escorted

A Traveller's Turkey

Departing: 12 September 2006, Spring & Fall 2007

It is one of the cradles of civilization and one of the most wonderful countries on the planet. Here are fabled cities, unique landscapes, incomparable historic sites and calm, friendly people who are eager to show that their land is, indeed, both historic and modern.

Ann Wallace, our editor, has travelled extensively in Turkey and always returns claiming it is one of her favourite destinations. So now we have organized a luxurious tour of Turkey exclusively for Travel Society members. We have combined our extensive knowledge with careful research to ensure you see the very best that Turkey has to offer. You'll stay in first-class historic or very specialized hotels, travel in a 40-seat air-conditioned luxury bus, enjoy cruises on private boats, sample fine food and be entertained by cultural performances. And the itinerary? Magical Istanbul (plenty of time there); Ankara, home of one of the world's finest museums; the unique 'geological poem' called Kapadokya (or Cappadocia); mysterious and lovely ruins such as Aphrodisias, Pergamum and, of course, Ephesus; the fabled and beautiful Aegean coast; the peaceful Princes Isles in the Sea of Marmara and so much more.

Ann says, "This is the most perfect tour of Turkey imaginable; you will have an unforgettable time ... and such a small group, too! Sign up now!"

AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES: 22 Days

Toronto	\$5,995.00 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$6,175.00 pp/dbl
Montreal	\$6,175.00 pp/dbl	Vancouver	\$6,395.00 pp/dbl
Edmonton	\$6,275.00 pp/dbl	Calgary	\$6,245.00 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$6,275.00 pp/dbl	Halifax	\$6,295.00 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$455 (Sharing can be arranged.) Prices are subject to confirmation

Your tour includes:

- Round trip transatlantic flights with Air Canada/Lufthansa/British Airways
- All domestic flights
- 20 nights' accommodation
- All meals as per itinerary
- All domestic transportation
- 40 seat air conditioned luxury bus
- Admission to all sites
- An English-speaking guide/director and a Travel Society host
- All Taxes

Please call 1 877 926 2500 or 416 926 2500 for the complete itineraries

Small Ship

New lower prices

Galapagos Islands Cruise & Ecuador

with options to Kapawi Lodge in the Amazon and Machu Picchu, Peru

14 days departing April, May, September, October & November 2006,

January, February, March, April 2007

The Travel Society is proud to be able to offer its members an outstanding trip to some of the world's most spectacular destinations. Who hasn't dreamed of cruising to the Galapagos Islands and seeing wildlife as Darwin witnessed it? Think of the unique adventure you will enjoy, of the stories you will have to tell and the photographs you will take! You will spend a week aboard your first-class 20-passenger ship, taking daily shore excursions to a variety of the islands with experienced naturalists in groups of no more than 10 people per guide.

You'll also visit other destinations in Ecuador, and then you can choose to enjoy the exciting optional extensions: to Kapawi - a ecological lodge in the Amazon and/or a visit Machu Picchu in Peru. We'll take care of all the travel details. All you have to do is enjoy!

PRICES INCLUDE AIR: Toronto \$5,895.00 pp/dbl

prices are available from all major cities

GREAT ADD-ONS, INCLUDING AIR:

Kapawi - from all departure points \$1,680.00 pp/dbl
Machu Picchu from \$1,996.00 pp/dbl

Prices are subject to confirmation

Your tour includes:

- Round-trip international air
- All domestic air transportation
- All accommodation
- First class Galapagos small ship cruise
- All meals as per the itinerary
- Admissions to all sites
- Expert Galapagos guides
- Transfers & baggage handling
- All taxes

Please call The Travel Society 1 877 926 2500 x24 or 416 926 2500 x24 for the full details. All our tours are specially priced for Travel Society members and are only available at these prices through our office.

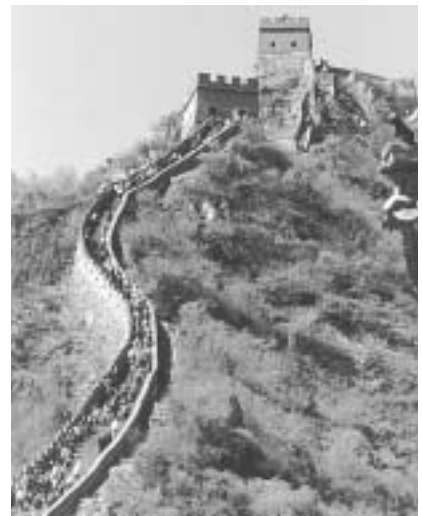


New itinerary
for 2006 & 2007

China ... Yangtze Spectacular

\$4,145 FOR 18 DAYS!

Departing: 6 September, 4 October 2006,
Spring & Fall 2007



Please call for the full itinerary

It is vast, fascinating and mysterious and it has beckoned travellers from the west for centuries. Mention it to avid travellers and they are sure to say, "Yes, I hope to visit China one day." And what would they choose to experience? **A cruise on the mighty Yangtze River (now in the process of changing for ever);** a look at the work-in-progress on the massive **Three Gorges Dam;** a walk on the ancient **Great Wall;** views of charming villages, lush terraced hillsides and magnificent mountain peaks; visits to the great cities of **Shanghai** and **Beijing;** a trip to view one of the world's greatest archaeological finds ... the 6,000 terra-cotta warriors at **Xi'an;** scenes of palaces, pagodas, pavilions and pandas; tastes of Peking duck and Chinese banquets and so much more. So how do you choose? When you decide on The Travel

Society's tour there's no need to choose because all these highlights are included. Yes, in these remarkable 18 days you'll stay in Beijing; you'll take a 4-day first-class cruise on the Yangtze with many shore excursions; you'll fly to see those centuries-old terra-cotta warriors in Xi'an; you'll visit bustling Chongquin and see its pandas; stay in Hangzhou and travel into the hills covered with tea plantations; explore the exquisite gardens of Suzhou, and visit Nanjing and Wuzhen. And you'll have time to explore spectacular Shanghai. Throughout the trip you'll see magnificent architecture, you'll be entertained at cultural events, you'll join your hosts at a variety of banquets, you'll have time to shop, and you'll marvel at some of the most wonderful scenery on earth, all in the company of English-speaking guides. You'll travel by plane, by luxury bus, cruise ship and river boat. Many of our members have told us it's an experience of a lifetime ... and all at an amazing price!

AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES:

Departing:	
Vancouver	\$4,145 pp/dbl
Victoria/Nanaimo/Kamloops	\$4,195 pp/dbl
Calgary/Edmonton	\$4,420 pp/dbl
Saskatoon/Regina	\$4,420 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$4,590 pp/dbl
Toronto	\$4,590 pp/dbl
Ottawa & Montreal	\$4,490 pp/dbl
Halifax/Quebec City/London	\$4,850 pp/dbl
St. John's	\$4,850 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$1,195 (Sharing can be arranged.)	
Taxes and visas extra.	

ADD-ON HONG KONG

4 days/3 nights	\$1,288 pp/dbl
Single supplement	\$544

ADD-ON BANGKOK

4 days/3 nights	\$1,185 pp/dbl
Single supplement	\$350

ADD-ON TOKYO

4 days/3 nights	\$1,375 pp/dbl
Single supplement	\$299

ADD-ON KYOTO

4 days/3 nights	\$1,450 pp/dbl
Single supplement	\$325

Editor Ann Wallace took the China Yangtze trip and her 14-page, illustrated account is available. For your copy please send \$5 with your address.

Your tour costs includes:

- Round-trip transpacific air fares on **Japan Airlines or Air Canada**
- Chinese domestic airfares
- Canadian domestic airfares
- First-class hotel accommodation
- First-class 4 days/3 nights Yangtze River cruise aboard a deluxe cruise ship
- All transfers
- Daily sightseeing
- Three meals daily
- 2 Western-style dinners.
- Special banquets in Hangzhou, Xi'an and Beijing
- Evening cultural shows
- Fully escorted by English/Chinese-speaking tour guide
- English-speaking local guides
- Free time in Beijing & Shanghai

Please call The Travel Society 1 877 926 2500 x24 or 416 926 2500 x24 for the full details. All our tours are specially priced for Travel Society members and are only available at these prices through our office.  

a 19-day tour with Cyril Payle at an incredible price ...

Spectacular South Africa

No charge
London stopover

Departure: 21 September 2006 & 1 March & 11 October 2007

Come with The Travel Society to a land of wonder ... on a South African trip unlike any other. Designed especially for our members, this trip takes in all the highlights: Kruger National Park for game watching, the famous Garden Route, the beautiful wine region of Stellenbosch and the sights of incomparable Cape Town, including Cape Point, Chapman's Peak Drive and Robben Island. But on our trip you will do far more. You will tour the Great Escarpment of Eastern Transvaal – a place so beautiful writers run out of adjectives – where you will visit God's Window, the Blyde River Canyon and historical towns like Pilgrims Rest. You'll see Johannesburg and be escorted to Soweto for lunch in a Township house and jazz in a famous nightspot. You'll enter the Kingdom of Swaziland to meet the people and enjoy more game watching. Zululand is also on the itinerary, with its historical sites and unique entertainment traditions. You'll be driven through the Valley of a Thousand Hills to East London and

take the famous Outeniqua Choo-Toe train from Knysna to George. You'll visit the Addo Elephant National Park and traverse the Little Karoo Desert – flanked by great mountain ranges – to see the Cango Caves. You'll travel in a luxury air-conditioned coach, you'll stay in lovely properties ranging from good hotels to charming chalets, you'll enjoy a wide variety of entertainment and you'll enjoy South Africa's delicious cuisine and wines and you'll be escorted all the way by Satour-accredited guides. Here at The Travel Society we know South Africa well ... and we can't imagine a more comprehensive, in-depth and fascinating tour of South Africa.

PRICES INCLUDING AIR AND TAXES departing from:

Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa \$7,315 pp/dbl
Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Halifax \$7,675 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$790.00 (sharing can be arranged)
Prices are subject to confirmation

Your tour includes:

- Return international airfare on British Airways
- First-class accommodation throughout
- Luxury a/c coach
- Experienced Satour-accredited tour guides
- Special Travel Society experiences
- All meals breakfast, light lunch and dinner
- All transfers with full luggage service
- All sightseeing fees (with no hidden extras)
- All taxes

Please call 1 877 926 2500 or 416 926 2500 for the complete itineraries

Copper Canyon and Mexico City

New
itinerary!

Departing: April, May, September, October & November 2006

We are offering a new 9-day tour to Mexico City and the Copper Canyon. The Copper Canyon is four times larger than the Grand Canyon, and you'll enjoy a journey that is considered by many to be the world's most exciting train trip, with its 87 tunnels, 39 bridges and uncountable spectacular views. You'll meet the people, stay in unique accommodations and explore the present and the past in this astonishing region.

Air-inclusive prices:

Toronto, Ottawa & Montreal \$3,760 pp/dbl
Vancouver, Calgary, Halifax, Winnipeg \$3,994 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$748 (Sharing can be arranged.)
Prices are subject to confirmation

Your tour includes:

- All air on Mexicana/Air Canada
- Canadian domestic air
- Bilingual guides
- 8 nights first class accommodation
- All transfers, baggage handling & tips
- Meals as per the itinerary
- All train trips and tours as per the itinerary
- All taxes

Please call The Travel Society 1 877 926 2500 x24 or 416 926 2500 x24 for the full details. All our tours are specially priced for Travel Society members and are only available at these prices through our office.



**A New
Tour**

India's Golden Triangle

21 days departing 9 October 2006, Spring & Fall 2007

**No charge
London
stopover**

India is one of the world's greatest travel destinations. But unless you're a young backpacker, a tour is the way to go! And The Travel Society is offering the ultimate tour of India's fabled northwestern region known as The Golden Triangle. This tour will show you all the highlights and more, including camel and elephant rides ... guaranteed to give wonderful photographs! You'll start your tour in Mumbai (once known as Bombay) where you'll visit Dhobi Ghat, the Gateway of India, Marine Drive, the Hanging Gardens, Jain Temple and the Prince of Wales Museum. There will be free time also, perhaps for a little shopping, before you fly to Udaipur, home of the Maharna City Palace, the Jagdish Temple, Garden of Maidens and so many other sites. And here you'll dine in the spectacular 250-year-old Lake Palace that seems to float on an island on Lake Pichola.

A drive to Mount Abu, a beautiful hill resort, comes next, followed by fabled Ranakpur, home of the beautiful Ranakpur Temples. Ancient Jodhpur is next on the itinerary, then it's on to the pilgrimage city of Pushkar with its temple dedicated to Lord Brahma. It's in Pushkar that, if you wish, you will take a camel ride into the sand dunes. The famous Pink City - Jaipur - the capital of Rajasthan comes next and you will spend two nights there, with days full of exciting sightseeing and an excursion to the Amber Fort by elephant. Jaipur is also famous for its bazaar full of wonderful gifts ... and of course you'll spend time there.

Agra is the home of the Taj Mahal and so, of course, it's on our itinerary too. You'll have an early night and leave before dawn to watch the beautiful Taj revealed by the rising

sun. Then it's on to Jhansi by the famous Shatabdi Express train - an incredible excursion. You'll be met by your bus there and driven on to Khajuraho, site of the World Heritage Temples - the eternal images of love. Varansi has been requested by many of our members and we've arranged for this destination to come next. You'll never forget your early-morning boat ride on the River Ganges here, nor the narrow by-lanes of this, one of the most ancient living cities. Your last destination is Delhi, reached by air to allow for plenty of time to see the sights and do some last-minute shopping.

Throughout this trip you will stay in first-class hotels; travel in de luxe a/c, fully-equipped coaches and enjoy wonderful meals, banquets and entertainment. Many days will be full, but there's plenty of free time too. Haven't you always wanted to visit India? Make this the year! Twenty-one days! A life-time time of memories! Come with The Travel Society and enjoy the best of Rajasthan with fellow members!



Your tour includes:

- All international flights with British Airways
- Domestic flights
- Deluxe a/c coach transportation
- Shatabdi Train Fare
- State transport taxes
- All taxes
- All meals
- English-speaking guides and escort
- All entrance fees
- Elephant ride and Camel safari
- Baggage handling

**Fully
Escorted**

AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES: 22 Days

Toronto	\$6,055.00 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$6,154.00 pp/dbl
Montreal	\$6,154.00 pp/dbl	Vancouver	\$6,296.00 pp/dbl
Calgary	\$6,296.00 pp/dbl	Winnipeg	\$6,296.00 pp/dbl
Halifax	\$6,296.00 pp/dbl		

Single supplement \$1,480 (Sharing can be arranged.) **Prices are subject to confirmation**

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