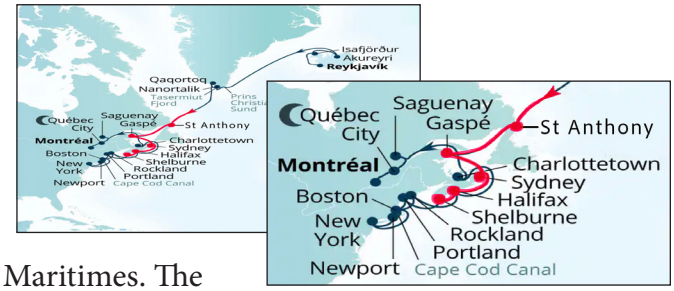
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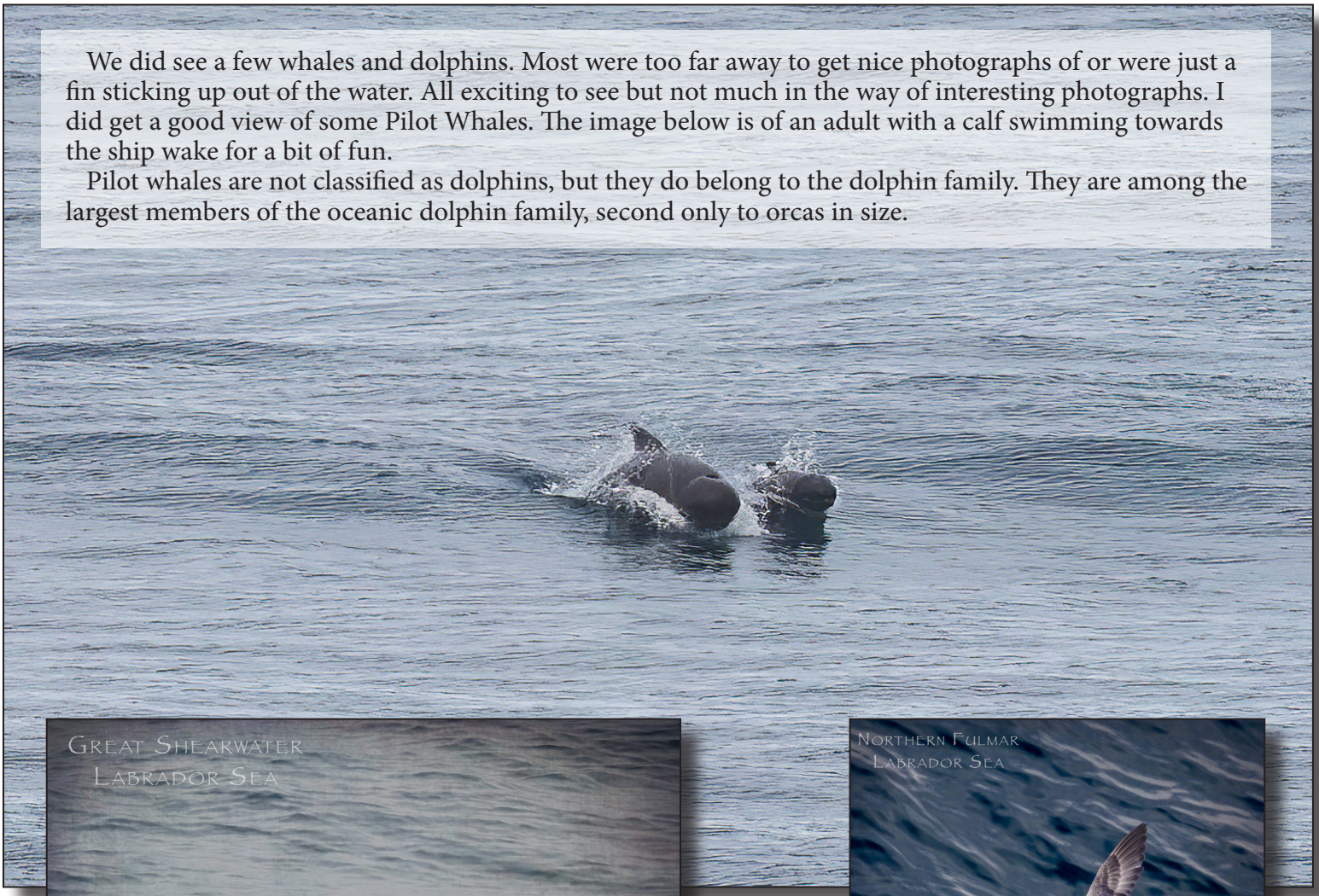


From Iceland it took a couple of sea days to get to the Canadian Maritimes. The weather and sea were pretty calm but there was not much in the way of pelagic bird watching.

Labrador Sea

We did see a few whales and dolphins. Most were too far away to get nice photographs of or were just a fin sticking up out of the water. All exciting to see but not much in the way of interesting photographs. I did get a good view of some Pilot Whales. The image below is of an adult with a calf swimming towards the ship wake for a bit of fun.

Pilot whales are not classified as dolphins, but they do belong to the dolphin family. They are among the largest members of the oceanic dolphin family, second only to orcas in size.

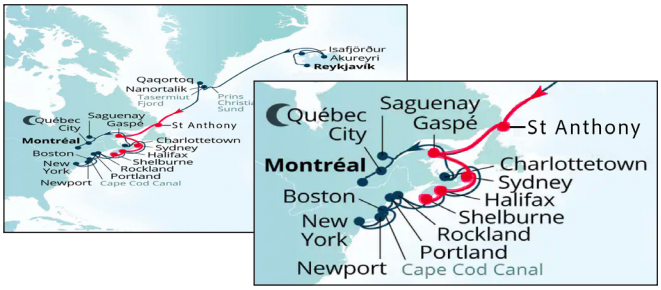






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After a couple days at sea crossing the Labrador Sea we made our first port of call in the Canadian Maritimes. We were supposed to visit L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland but another change in itinerary took us to St. Anthony, a bit further south of L'Anse aux Meadows along the east coast of the island of Newfoundland.







In our search for a suitable Situation Room for Wendy's daily medicinal *Skinny Decaffeinated Vanilla Latte* we passed many of these octagon boxes. At lunch it required the young San Francisco Bay area love struck transplant that waited on us for enlightenment. They are garbage bins at the head of driveways for garbage collectors. The long and plentiful snow and gale force wind season makes dragging one's cans up driveways to the main road impractical so the individual sacks of garbage find their way to these bins for collection. The young San Francisco Bay area love struck fellow said it was a small price to pay for eternal love and that he really liked it there.

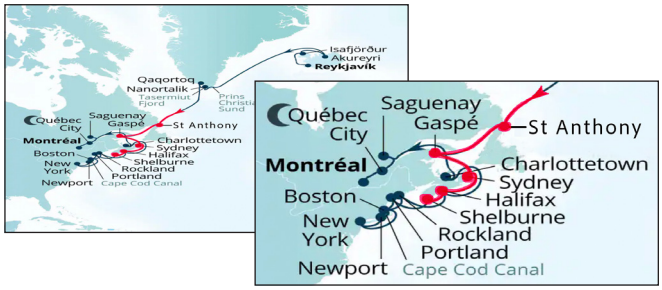






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Our love struck transplant San Francisco Bay Area waiter told us about a undocumented tourist attraction in the local hospital's round lobby, a floor to ceiling surround of ceramic sculpture depicting local culture. It was on our way as we returned to the ship so we stopped in to look at it.





As we left St. Anthony I saw this oddly placed airplane from the ship which we didn't see during our short walk. It inspired a bit of research and I found that it is a decommissioned Canso water bomber. It is the center-piece of a memorial park in St. Anthony that memorializes two people killed in 1967 while flying a similar plane fighting a forest fire in the Bay St. George area (a bay at the southern end of Newfoundland Island).

To me, this sign says it doesn't know what the next left will bring, so... exactly the kind of turn I would take.



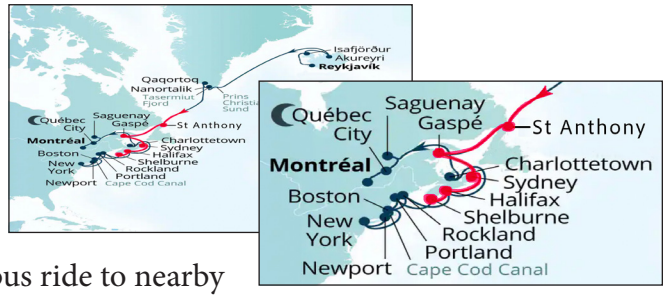






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Our next port of call was Gaspé, Quebec but we opted to take a bus ride to nearby town called Percé and walk around on our own. Percé is located on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, near the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula, in Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, Canada.

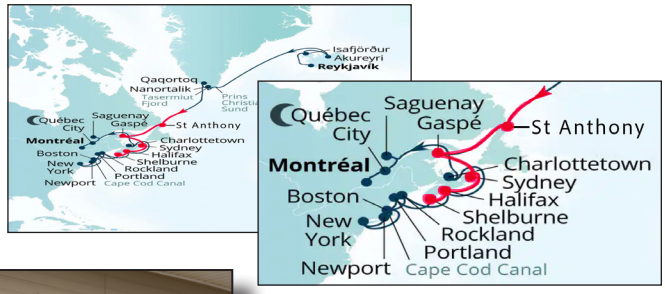
Percé, member of the association of Most Beautiful Villages of Quebec, is mainly a tourist location particularly well known for the attractions of Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island.

The massive rocky cliff is called by several names, such as le Rocher Percé, Pierced Rock, Pierced Island, Split Rock or Percé Rock. The name is attributed to the pierced rock that forms an arch on its seaward southern end, as though a needle had cut through the rock. It was named Percé ("pierced rock") by Samuel de Champlain in 1607, in reference to the holes he had seen in the massive block of limestone, which over the years has become a major attraction in the province of Quebec.



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Not to be out done by the fashion shoot on the Percé pier, we found a willing lobster Wendy could pose with. That brought forth one of our bucket list items for this trip, to try various versions of the famous *Lobster Rolls* along the eastern Atlantic coast.

For our first Lobster Roll of the trip Wendy choose a place with a colorful past: *La Maison du Pêcheur.*

It was the perfect sort of place for us, not withstanding the Lobster Rolls which were our second favorite of the trip.





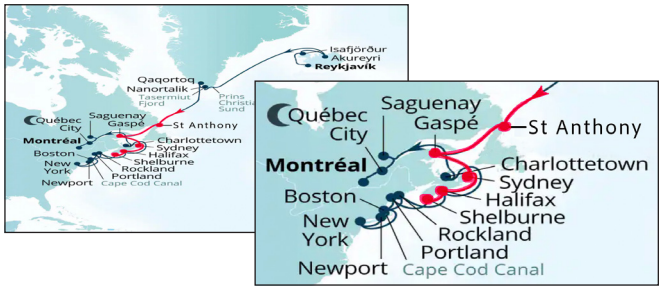


From the *La Maison du Pêcheur* website:

> "The wave of protest that swept through Paris in May 1968 reached Percé that same summer as the just founded Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ) set up its base of operations there. The leaders of this faction would often gather with an already sympathetic hippy clientele in a ramshackle shed on the shore, the odour of seaweed blending with the smell of other weeds not necessarily related to St. John's wort. This shed-turned-colourful-youth hostel, known as La Maison du Pêcheur, where brothers Paul and Jacques Rose would pull up their chairs next to chansonnier Plume Latraverse and where beatniks of all stripes found a place to sleep, would become the scene of a chapter in the history of Québec. Quarts of beer in hand, these protesters, clad in little more than a ragged version of the flag of Québec, would cruise the village's main drag on their rumbling motorcycles. In no time at all, they would become the black sheep of a municipal administration striving to maintain public order. Iconoclasts, freedom lovers, they illustrated their yearnings for liberty in the graffiti that can still be seen on some sections of the ceiling of what some might call Québec's Sistine Chapel!"

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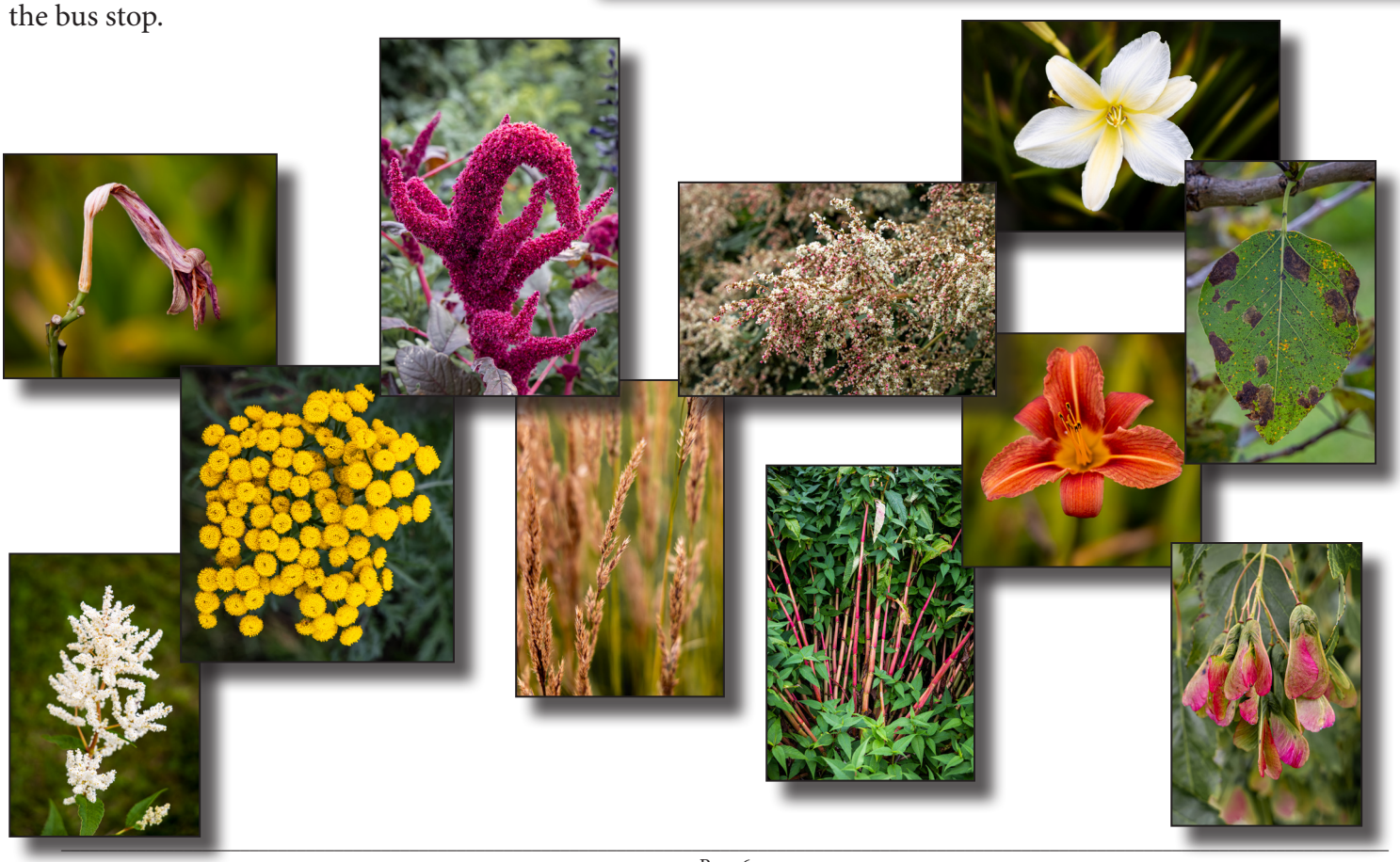
The Villa Frederick James in Percé is one of the most photographed houses in Canada. It was built in 1900 by the Philadelphia artist Frederick James whose first trip to Percé was in 1880.

Like so many other artists, he found something compelling about the breathtaking landscapes and he fell under the spell of the sea and the small fishing village of Percé.

His beautiful mansion up on Cap Canon overlooks Percé Rock and has inspired millions of visitors from all over the world for many reasons.

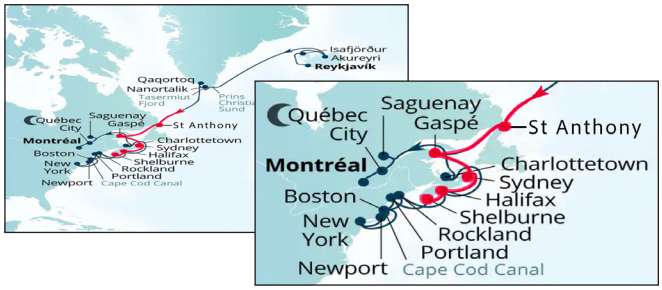


Waiting for our bus ride back to Gaspé where we would board the ship, I spent a few minutes photographing the last of summer and fall in a small garden next to the bus stop.



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Just off Percé is an important bird habitat, Bonaventure Island. We were not able to visit there, but 218 different species of birds have been recorded as visiting, migrating to, or living on Bonaventure island.

The most common bird found on the island is the Northern Gannet. The island is home to one of the largest colonies of gannets in the world, with 51,700 pairs in 2011. Other populous colonies include the Black-Legged Kittiwake and the Common Murre.

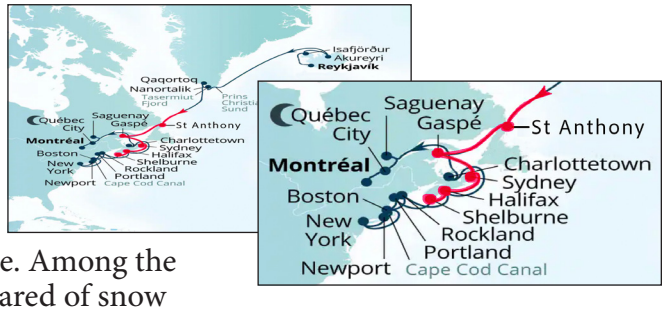
I did get a few photo opportunities along the shore in Percé and while on the ship a nice sequence of a Northern Gannet diving into the water.







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On the bus to and from Percé and Gaspé we had a nice tour guide. Among the many interesting things we learned was that the main roads are cleared of snow very promptly (and often) after every snow fall. However, almost everyone has a tractor with a plow to clear their own road to the main road.

Another was that people in the area had huge lawns to mow... it is some sort of '*thing*'... I commented to her that was a deal killer for me moving there.

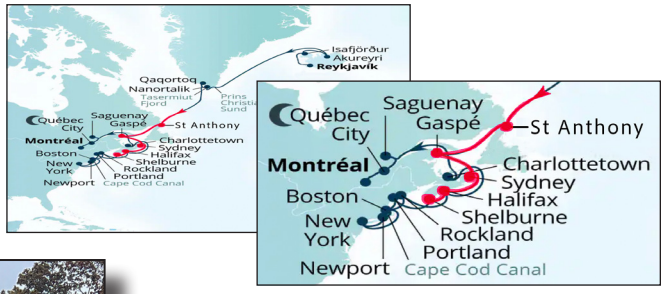




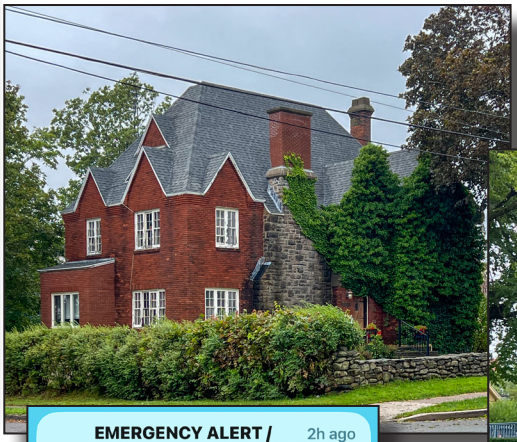


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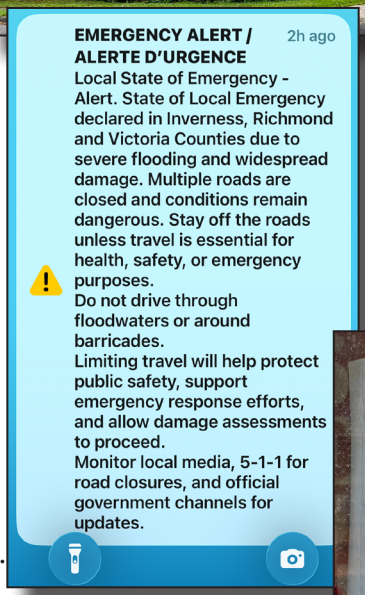






Another alteration to our itinerary had our stop at Cap-aux-Meules canceled. We sailed onto Sydney and instead of one night there we would spend two nights waiting out some wet and windy weather. We still got out between major rain events for a short walk in the town. Fortunately we docked right in town which made it easy to get off and into the town straight away. Our walk took us by several old stately homes.

We pulled away from Sydney late afternoon in pretty dreary conditions. No one was shore side seeing us off except for a few wet birds and a couple of vacant Adirondack chairs.







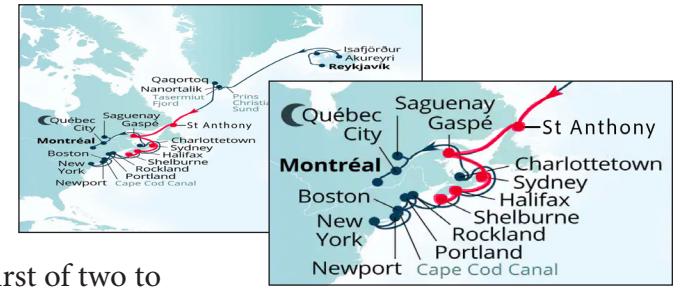






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Our next port of call was the first of two to Halifax. We would return to Halifax in a about a week on our trip back north to Montreal.

In the morning we took one of the hop-on / hop-off buses to get a general feel for the city, something we often do as a first effort in exploring a new city.

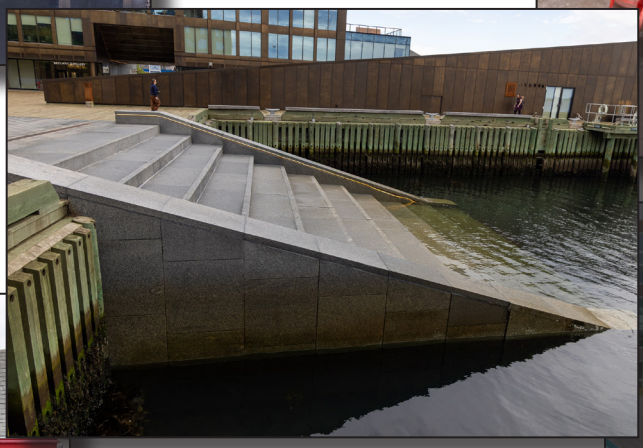
Halifax is the economic center of Atlantic Canada, the most populous municipality of Nova Scotia, and the most populous municipality in Atlantic Canada.



After our hop-on / hop-off bus tour of the city we spent the rest of the day exploring things along the Halifax Boardwalk, a 2.5 mile (4 km) boardwalk along the waterfront and where our ship was docked.





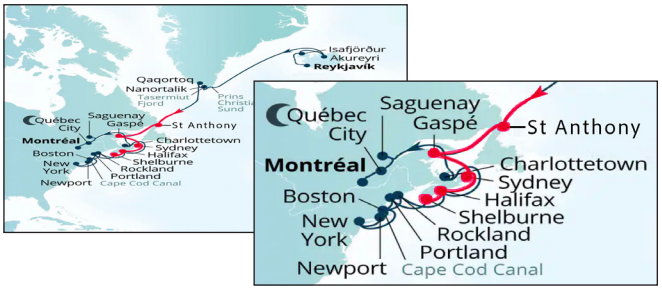






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We happened upon this disturbing scene. I did not hear or see any sirens or emergency vehicles with flashing lights, but I felt this was really bad news for someone...



And it turned out it really wasn't good news at all... *fatal* news even... at least for the huge fish being escorted to a boardwalk restaurant.



I wasn't sure this was the appropriate artwork for restrooms, but was grateful for the warning in any case...



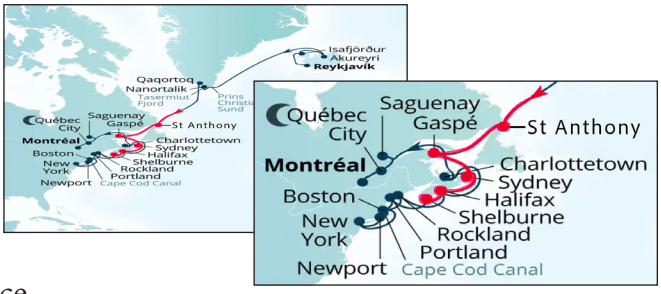
This installation of three light standards is titled "Got Drunk, Fell Down" is one of my favorite pieces art along the boardwalk. Created by artists Chris Hanson and Hendrika Sonnenbergin, the three sculptures take the form of functioning street lamps doing some particularly "human" things.

The two in the foreground form a sort of diptych, with one a fallen light standard, while the second standing lamp seems to look on with concern.



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We spent the rest of the late afternoon and evening on the ship enjoying the views from our room balcony. Halifax is a popular place for ships and the city is well prepared to accommodate them and their passengers. On this stop we shared the pier with another ships as well as the huge one anchored in the bay and ferrying it's passengers ashore.

The Canadian Forces came by to wave and check out our room.









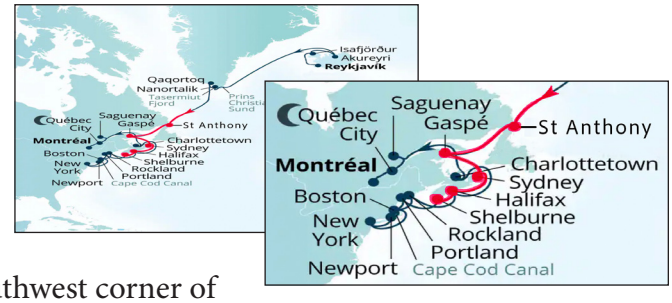






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Our last stop in Canada going south was at Shelburne, at the southwest corner of Nova Scotia, at roughly the same latitude as Portland, Maine, in the United States.

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The Black Loyalists, people of Black African descent who sided with the Loyalists during the American Revolutionary War, played a significant role in Shelburne's history. Nearby in Birchtown there is The Black Loyalist Heritage Site, which documents the story of the Black Loyalists. There was a short bus ride tour to the there, but we only had a few hours in Shelburne and we opted to just have a walk around town on our own.

Many of Shelburne's buildings date back to Loyalist times. Most were along a short waterfront section right where the ship's tenders came in.







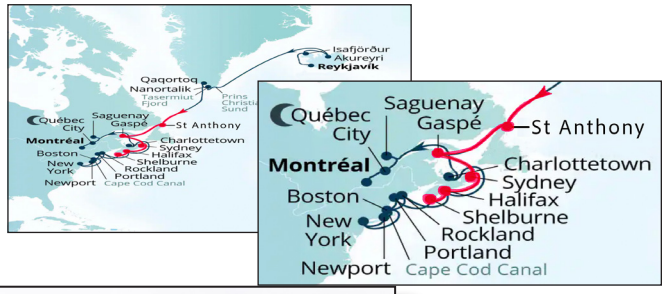






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It was easy to see why so much filming is done in Shelborne. In 1992, *Mary Silliman's War*, based on the life of Mary Silliman and depicting Fairfield, Connecticut, during the American Revolution. In 1994, film *The Scarlet Letter*, based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel about Puritan New England in the mid-17th century. Others were *Virginia's Run, Wilby Wonderful,* portions of the TV miniseries, *Moby Dick,* in 2014 *The Book of Negroes* and in 2019 the documentary *There's Something in the Water*.





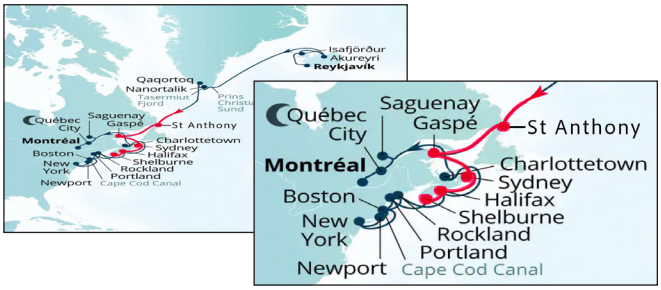






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We saw several of these double entry sort of porches, indicating that the weather during the winter might be more severe that one door keep out.







Along the waterfront we enjoyed stopping at a historic barrel shop, The Shelburne Barrel Factory. In operation at its current location since 1917, it is the last privately owned cooperage in Canada.

A cooper is a craftsman who produces wooden casks, barrels, vats, buckets, and other containers from timber staves that are usually heated or steamed to make them pliable.

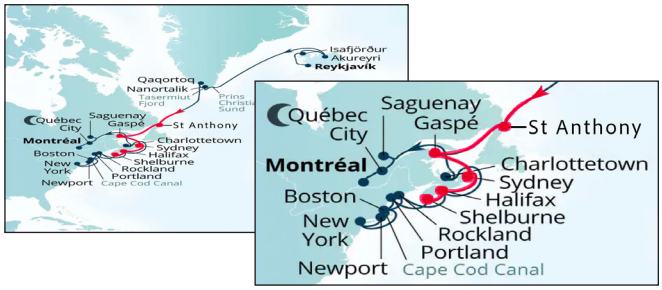






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We had lunch in a local cafe, heard some local 'how life is there' stories from the waitress and then headed back to the ship's tender.

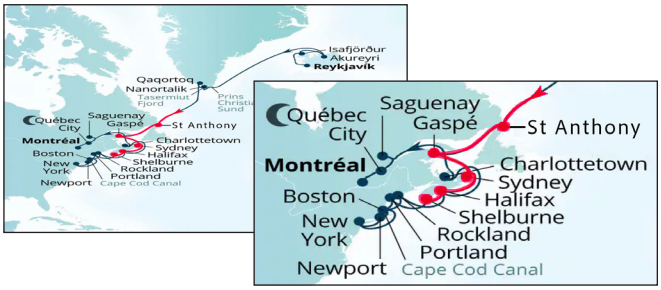
Back on board we enjoyed the scenes from our room balcony as we headed south towards or next port of call, Portland, Maine. I noticed some on shore were watching us as we were watching them and admiring their nice homes.





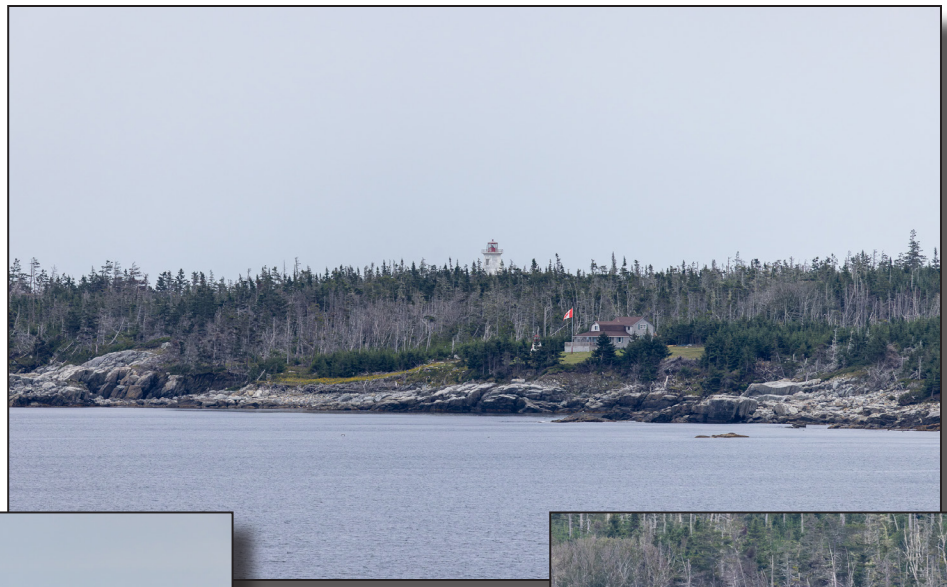
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