



COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND CRUISE 2019 TO MONTREAL

STORY BY "SMOKEN Mal Smith

Photos by Keith E. Jacobson, Lina Lapore, Ed Forsberg

Once again, Jim and Kay Gable with the help of Jim Morrill, Dennis Collins, and Ed Forsberg put together a wonderful trip to Montreal, Canada.





Friday morning, with passports in hand, the Columbus cruisers headed to IHOP in Nashua, NH, the meeting spot where we had breakfast and drove to Hotel Cheribourg in Magog, Canada (a hotel we visited when we went to Quebec a few years ago).

Our cruisers this year were:

Jim and Kay Gable

Jim and Kelsa Morrill

Dennis and Carolyn Collins

Joel and Maureen Baker

Mike and Sue Campopiano

Keith Jacobson

David and Marilyn Yee

Brian and Andrea Loiseau

John and Patty Pinciario

Larry and Lena Lepore

Bruce and Sue Kolovson

Steve and Sherry Wilson

Ed and Joanne Forsberg

Mal Smith and Joe Woodard

We hit the road heading north at 10:00 AM in three groups. Our leaders were Ed and Joanne, Dennis and Carolyn and Jim and Kay, who kept us safe and did a GREAT job keeping us together. The scenery was perfect. We saw the foliage at just the right time of year. On the way to Canada, my phone stayed busy with safe travel wishes from many of



the club members. Some were Bill Schroeder, Judy Pitasi, and John Dwyer, just to name a few.

There were a few pit stops along the way and they were different for all three groups. At one point, two of the groups meet up at a rest stop. As you can see from these picture, Jim Gable and his side kick, Mike, were a bit confused with the so-called phone booth. Jim immediately called to get God's blessing, #10.



Sherry Wilson is originally from the Derby, Vermont area and she made arrangements for the cruisers to do what they do best, "EAT". We stopped at the East Side Restaurant in Newport, Vermont which is a restaurant owned by one of Sherry's good friends. There was a very nice gift shop at the restaurant as well. We had a great meal.

There was a beautiful seating area in the back overlooking the lake and the weather could not have been better, 70 degrees with 100% sunshine. Thanks so much Steve and Sherry.



Eastside Restaurant on the shore of Lake Memphremagog in Newport, Vermont

After a gas stop....onward to the border. It was a relatively quick pass through...just the way we like it.



We arrived at the Villegia Cheribourg Hotel and everyone checked in. We had some free time before dinner and some folks went for a walk, some went shopping, some rested while others just ventured around the area.

Dinner was at 7:00 PM and was arranged ahead of time. We had a private room for all of us and a lovely dinner was enjoyed by all. Boy are we loud until the food comes when the room becomes silent.

At 9:00 AM Saturday morning, the three teams organized their followers and left for Montreal. We were again blessed with a beautiful day and more spectacular foliage.

We arrived at the Sandman Hotel and all of the Corvettes were carefully directed for parking by the attendant who truly respected our love for our Vettes. As it was too early to check in, we all wasted no time in getting our weekend Metro passes and headed to Old Montreal (the train station was next door to the hotel).

Eastern Mass Corvette Club

Duck and rabbit rilettes

or

Parsnip soup and rabiole

Candied salmon, basil emulsion and coriander

or

Braised beef, cheddar meat juice

or

Tagliatelle dew sauce and sausage merguez

35\$ (taxes and services not included)

Strawberry crème brûlée

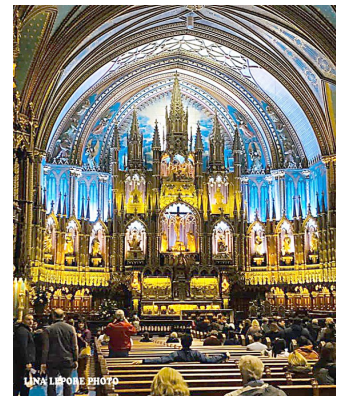
or

Cheese cake



**VILLEGIA
CHÉRIBOURG**

Our first adventure was Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal. As beautiful as the pictures are, it was much more beautiful and very impressive. An absolute must see. It didn't take us too much time to find ourselves in the center of Old Montreal admiring the beautiful gardens, specialty shops, views of the river...and then came lunch.



At this time in the trip, a lot of groups formed and each group did their own thing. My group of 10 went to eat at the Jardin Nelson restaurant which was adorned with lots of flowers in an outside garden patio. The food was exceptional but the Bloody Mary's had a lot to be desired.



A group was organized to take an hour boat trip up and down the St. Lawrence Seaway. So nice.



Steve and Sherry Wilson were seen getting free hugs from some young man at the lower river walkway. Some questions arose...did anyone else go for the free hugs? Did Jim M, Joanne, and Mal ever go for the roller coaster ride on the longest roller coaster? There were three spectacular amusement parks along the river.



It was so nice how everyone seemed to spread out, create their own groups, which continually change, and do their own activities. Keeping a large group together is an impossible feat. There were some shoppers in the group and they did some damage, as they say. I stayed in town (Old Montreal) along with a few others and we poked around in a few shops and did sightseeing until it started to rain. We quickly purchased umbrellas and headed back to the Sandman where we met up with many others in the group. Most of us had dinner in the hotel restaurant and that was quite the trip. A story for another time.



Sunday we all got off to a start together on the train and decided to spend time in Montreal. We visited so many places. First off, we went to the Botanical Gardens and spent some time there enjoying all the beautiful plants and decorations.



We went to the Complexe de Sir Winston Churchill, the Olympic Stadium and posed for lots of pictures, we visited McGill University, and a few of the group climbed Mont Royal. You can see the beautiful scenery in some of these photos. Those few who made the trek said it was worth it. At least one of the hikers managed to not wear the right shoes for the event. One other wore out his knees and body and lots of aches and pains were had.

At the end of the day, which was beautiful, we all headed back to the hotel. The event in Montreal ended with a wonderful Italian dinner at Messina's in Longueuil, near the hotel. We were set up in a room of our own (they must have been tipped off as to how loud we get) and shared stories. What a wonderful group of folks.



Monday morning the group teams again organized the Cruisers for the trip home. Some left at 8 AM and some at 9 AM. I personally went right home, but I heard there was food involved with some of the groups and shopping with others. We certainly get all we can out of our Columbus Cruisers weekend.

Thanks again to Jim Gable and his assistants. Great job by everyone. Before I end, I want to give a few honorable mention recognitions:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Marilyn Yee | Weekend trouper |
| Keith Jacobson | Best cameraman/newbee |
| Sue Kolovson | Best looking boots |
| Joel and Maureen | Best newbeees |
| Joanne Forsberg | Most athletic |
| Best Shopping Team: | Larry and Lena |
| | Patty and Pinch |
| | Brian and Andrea |
| Steve and Sherry | Most invisible couple (Huggers) |
| Jim Morrill | Best jokester |
| Lina Lapore | Most gullible |
| Joe Woodard | Most invisible individual |



Bonjour et Au Revoir Montreal

Story by Keith E. Jacobson



I had never gone on one of EMCC's Columbus Day weekend events. Every year I read about them in the gazette and thought it sounded like everyone had a lot of fun ... I should have gone. This year I decided enough procrastinating-time to sign up and go...and I did !!!

Mal was kind enough to volunteer to do the write up. I figured with the great job that she always does I wouldn't write anything. That changed ... she still did a fantastic story but ...

Frankly this trip didn't meet my expectations...it far exceeded them and I felt that I wanted to tell the story from a first-timer's perspective. There were a number of first timer's on this trip, five cars of us, and from what I gathered EVERYONE had a great time. We were blessed with great weather for the entire trip and the foliage as we drove north was spectacular.

We pulled over at one point and Jim said that Kay was



saying that KAMERAKETH wanted to take pictures. I did...the stop happened to be where the Old Man in the Mountain was prior to its collapse.



Mal said one of the nice things about going away with a group was that you really got to know people better. Very true. Fourteen cars, 27 people-it could have been chaos ...it was the exact opposite.

We stopped in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom to gas up before crossing the border and pretty much took over the gas station.



Canadian customs was a few minutes away and we lined up ...



and were quickly through and into Quebec ...

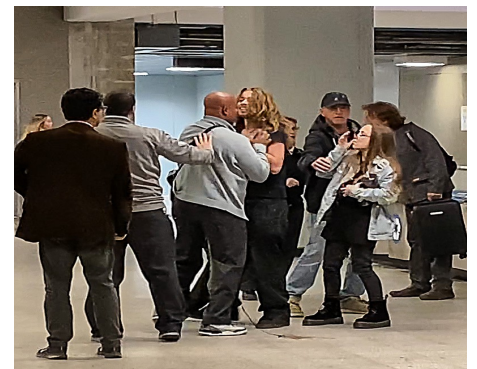


Our overnight stop was in Magog. We arrived there quickly as no one told Jim that the signs were in kph not mph ... just kidding.



In the morning Jim had given us a departure time. I was standing in the parking lot waiting for our group to assemble. I saw them lining up to leave, and to my surprise, they started leaving. I did a Le Mans start and caught up with them. Later Jim said when I give a departure time ... your seat needs to be in the car's seat at that time. Lesson learned.

Arriving at our hotel our cars were parked and remained so until we left. Preferred transportation was the Metro with the station just a few steps from our door. In Montreal, many people, are fierce about retaining their French heritage so pretty much everything is in French-menus, street signs, direction, etc. . The Metro is very similar to our MBTA so once we figured out the map getting around was pretty easy.



We ate at both hotels and the food was "meh." The rooms were nice and in the second one my 16th floor room had a spectacular view across the St. Lawrence Seaway towards Montreal.



After checking into the second hotel, all 27 of us jumped on the Metro and headed over to Old Montreal and the waterfront. The Metro is very clean, efficient, and the trains are so long that there was plenty of room for everyone to board together. We all bought a weekend pass that gave unlimited rides. The cost was around \$13.00 Canadian ... well worth it. While in the Metro we got to see a fight across the way on the other platform...four police were on the scene within a minute. The trains were long clean with lots of doors so on and offs were easy.



Our first stop was to see the famous Notre-Dame Basilica:



Across the way there was much public art and a woman, in the plaza, singing opera.



THE ENGLISH PUG AND THE FRENCH POODLE
A dashing looking English man, holding his pug, is giving a superior stare at *Notre-Dame Basilica*, symbol of the religious influence on French Canadians.
210 feet away at the northern corner of the edifice, a woman in a Chanel style suit, poodle against her, shoots an offended look to the *Bank of Montreal's* head office, symbol of English power.
With their masters oblivious to each other, the two dogs on the alert have already sniffed out the opportunity to unite.



From there we walked up the street to Place Jacques Cartier. "In 1809, Montreal's oldest public monument was raised here, [Nelson's Column](#). In 1847, the square was renamed in honor of [Jacques Cartier](#), the [explorer](#) who claimed [Canada](#) for [France](#) in 1535. The broad, divided street slopes steeply downhill from [Montreal City Hall](#) and [rue Notre-Dame](#) to the waterfront and [rue de la Commune](#). During the high tourist season, the street hosts many street artists and [kiosks](#)." We even got to see a protest rally while there.



After meandering around for a while, groups split up for a lunch break. When we went to the rendezvous point at the appointed time we found out that the time had been pushed back a couple of hours. So our little group, Steve and Sherry, David and Marilyn, and I, headed down to the Old Port of Montreal along the Saint Lawrence River. It is a popular tourist place with all kinds of attractions, tourist shops, and La Grand Roue de Montreal the ferris wheel that is Canada's tallest observation wheel, as high a 20 story building.



For those of you who remember "All In The Family" when Sammy Davis Jr. kissed Archie on the cheek ... I had a flashback moment. One picture is worth a thousand words. Enough said



View across the river towards [La Biosphere de Montreal \(Montreal Biosphere\)](#). This was [the former U.S. pavilion at Expo 67](#) and it is now a museum dedicated to the environment. The design was by Buckminster Fuller. To the right "[Man, Three Disks](#)" is a stabile created by the sculptor Alexander Calder (1898-1976), for World's Fair **Expo 67** held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in 1967. Located on Saint-Helen island within Parc Jean-Drapeau, the sculpture is 21.3 meters high, 22 m. long and 16.25 m. wide."



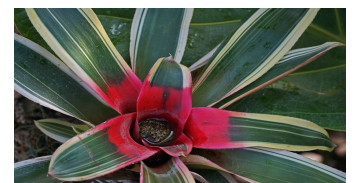
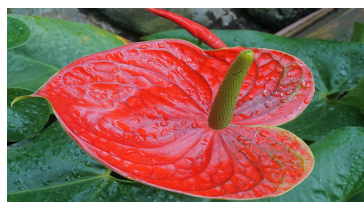
Other members of the group found a boat ride/tour and went on that. When we finally regrouped, we went back to the hotel where, after a little R&R, many of us met up for dinner in the hotel's restaurant. My Dad always said..."If you can't say something nice..." so I'll leave it at that.

Next morning, Sunday, it was off to the botanical garden. Walking there we passed the Olympic Stadium, built in 1976 for the Olympic Games in Montreal. There was a concrete structure in front that was a replica of the podium at the Olympic Games. Photo op for the group.



Heading up the street, we arrived at the Jardin Botanique (Botanical Gardens). There were so many interesting plants-bonsai, banana trees, a contest where kids created interesting pumpkins, and there was a Halloween event "Esmeralda's lair." More pictures of beautiful flowers than can fit in one gazette.





Moving on we headed over to RESO ... commonly known as [The Underground City](#). There are over 20 miles of tunnels and it covers 4.6 square miles. It is the largest underground complex in the world. According to Wikipedia it has 1,200 offices, about 2,000 stores, approximately 1,600 housing units, 200 restaurants, 40 banks, and much more. They say nearly 500,000 people use it every day. Where we entered in it appeared to be under construction and not very photogenic. We were probably not in the most interesting part and it was almost lunchtime. After a very brief stop it was back to the surface to find a place to eat.

I was with David and Marilyn and mentioned that Montreal was famous for its Jewish delis. We all liked that kind of food so after a short search we found [Ruben's](#) just down the street. The lunch was excellent and the company even better.



Huge sandwiches and a pile of fries...with a pickle on the side. Marilyn said it was more than she could eat and offered me part of hers. Being a gentleman...I accepted. Big mistake...read about that coming up.

When we left a number of our group wanted to visit the Canada Goose store a few doors down. I had seen the Canada Goose logo many times on jackets but didn't really know about the brand. When we got to the store there was a security guard at the door, not for capturing shoplifters as you might think, but for crowd control. Two people out...two people in. I didn't realize that this was a very upscale place. Checking the price tag on a ski parka...\$1,000.00. OK. The amazing thing was that there were two registers, with lines at each, six to eight people deep and the lines never got shorter while I was there.



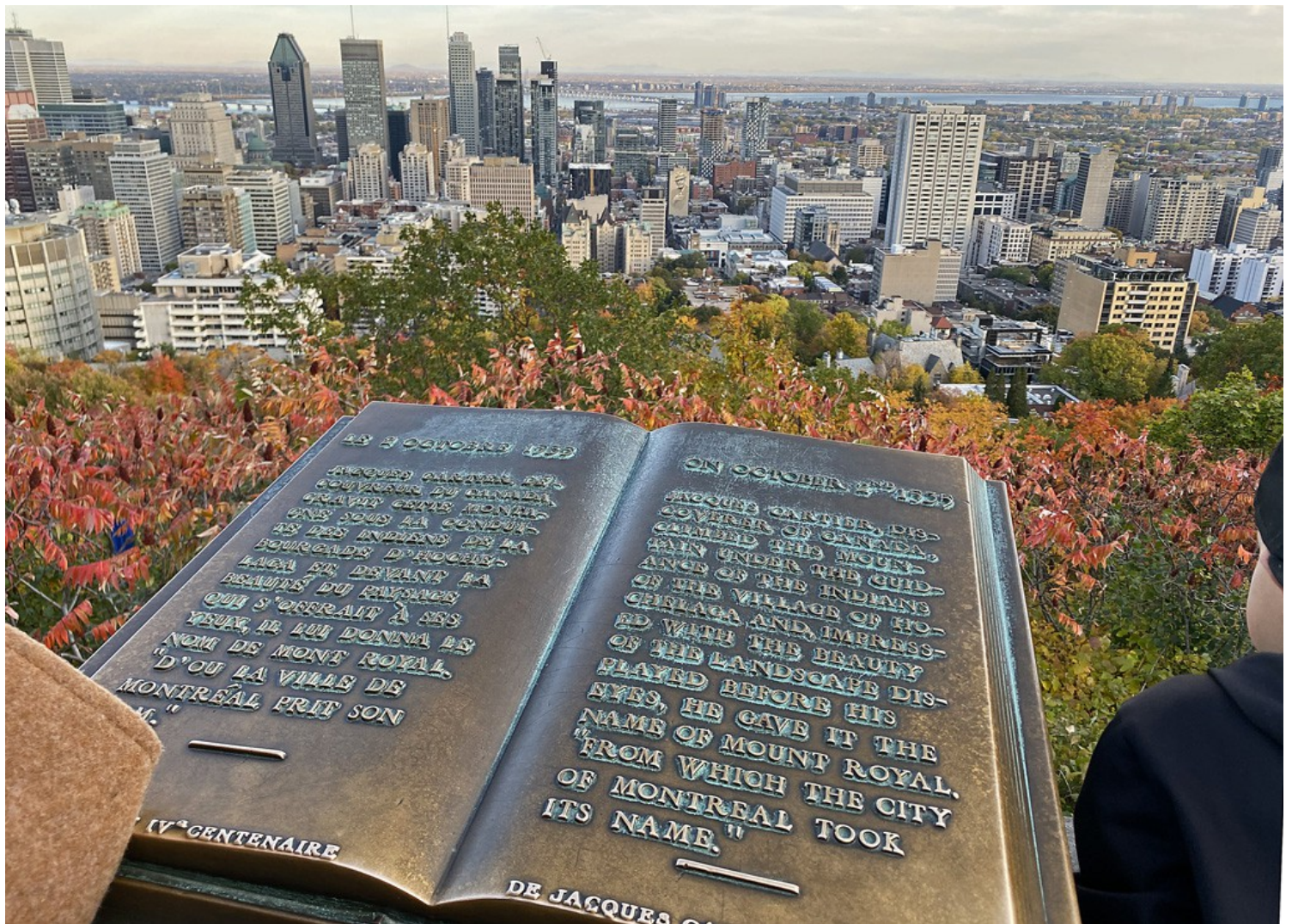
The group then split up and some of us went to see [Mount Royal](#)...say it fast-"Montreal." Mount Royal is a small mountain in the city of Montreal. It is right next to McGill University. We took the Metro and after a short walk, arrived at the campus, walked up a street through the campus, and arrived at the base of the mountain.



There is a staircase that takes you up the mountain...lots and lots of stairs.



I started up and was huffing and puffing so much...I thought they might have to Med Flight me out. That's when I realized maybe the huge lunch wasn't such a great idea before attempting this. So I slowed down, did a segment, took a short break and then did the next part. Some of our group went up without a problem, others a little slower with a little more effort. I really didn't want to go home without reaching the top.



I got there and am glad that I did ... the view across the city and beyond was well worth the effort. Later on I found out that there is a bus to the summit and also that you can drive to a parking lot near the summit...next time.



That wrapped up Sunday and we returned to the hotel. Some of the group went out for dinner together others did their own thing.

The next morning we headed for the border. I had my seat in the seat of my car at the designated time and once again enjoyed spectacular foliage on the way.

We crossed the boarder at Champlain, N.Y.

We stopped at a breakfast place just across the border and it was filled with Corvette memorabilia.



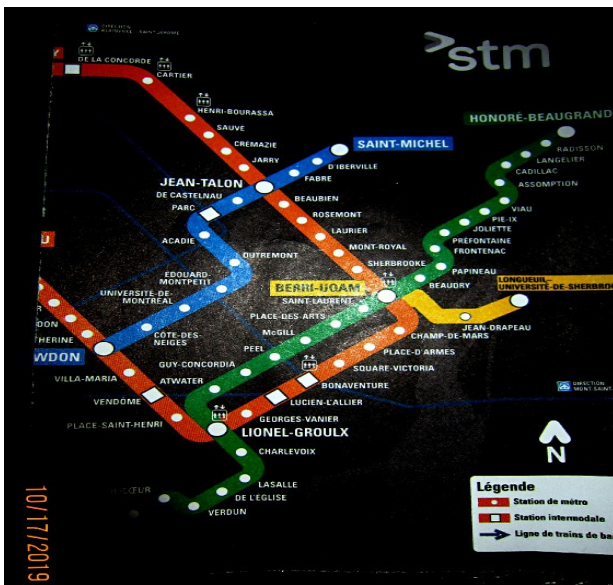
Stomachs full, we continued on our way. I think everyone had smiles on their faces.



A Few from Dennis & Carolyn

Dennis shared some photos that were taken by him and Carolyn





SEE YOU ON THE ROAD

I think I can speak for everyone by closing with a big thank you to Jim and Kay Gable. At the business meeting Jim disclosed that Kay did most of the work. So from the staff here at the gazette to Kay...the UNSUNG HERO AWARD.

I don't have 2020 vision so what the New Year will bring, who knows. Fingers crossed if all goes well, I am pretty sure that on Columbus Day weekend I will be once again be joining EMCC for another great adventure and I hope that many of you will join me. I believe we had five newbie cars, first timers, on this trip. I was surprised to learn that Joel and Maureen, two of our founding members, had never gone on a Columbus Day event. Joel said that they did not really want to travel distances in the C3...but now with the C7 - lookout !!!

Many probably don't know that this event has been run since 1996, starting with a trip to Nova Scotia. Jim said that this was probably the largest group to have participated in a Columbus Day weekend trip.

Right around the corner from our hotel was this giant Campbell's soup can sculpture, a fitting photo as I end this gazette with a big smile on my face thinking of our trip.

Thanks to Jim and Kay Gable who made the whole thing possible, Mal for the excellent story. Photo contributors Dennis & Carolyn, Lina Lepore, Ed Forsberg, Steve Wilson, who took the pictures of me, and everyone else who made this a trip to remember. I often say life is made up of memories...and we all have lots of good ones from this trip.

SEE YOU ON THE ROAD ... AU REVOIR ...KK



There have been twenty eight Columbus Day Cruises thanks to Dennis, Jim , and Kay for getting the list together.

1	Columbus Day Cruises	
2		
3		
4	Year	Place
5	1996	Nova Scotia
6	1997	Armish Country Penn
7	1998	Montreal CAN
8	1999	Cooperstown NY
9	2000	Nova Scotia
10	2001	Del Mar Virginia
11	2002	Niagara Falls
12	2003	Glen Cove Maine
13	2004	Ocean City Maryland
14	2005	Lake Placid NY
15	2006	Ocean City Maryland
16	2007	Long Island NY
17	2008	Cape Cod MA
18	2009	Philadelphia Penn
19	2010	Finger Lakes NY
20	2011	Glen Cove Maine
21	2012	Fishkill NY
22	2013	Cape Cod MA
23	2014	Lake George NY
24	2015	Danbury CT
25	2016	Quebec City CAN
26	2017	Glen Cove Maine
27	2018	NY City
28	2019	Montreal CAN