

Sunday April 1st 2018

We were up at 05:15 and started out close down routine. The van had been packed the day before, but the floor paniers were open waiting for the last minute contributions. The final item in was the cooler with lunch, seltzer, and Maisie's 'frozen' treats for future groomings. Then we turned off the water and turned the water heater down to low. After some discussion and cogitation, we set both thermostats on 78F/cool. It's pretty hard to figure how to best do that with four and one-half months to go.

We hooked up the battery tender to the Jeep. David moved the Dodge van around to the front of the house so we could bring the Scion into the garage. David hooked up its battery tender. Then he slid the steel bolt that prevented the garage from being opened.

Louise took Maisie for a last pit stop.

We rolled out at 07:10 and headed for the interstate north to Cincinnati. David had his baseball cap on as at that time of day the rising sun comes straight at the driver. In about an hour and a half we were driving through Cincinnati and a bit north of the city on I-71 we pulled off for coffee.

After changing drivers we aimed at Columbus and then Cleveland. The good weather held and we made good time, dodging potholes all the way.

Around noon we pulled into an Ohio Rest Area and had our egg salad sandwiches and pop. Then it was Interstate towards Buffalo. Halfway there Sue, the GPS Lady, lost her brains and pushed us off the Interstate into Erie Pennsylvania. She even tried to make us visit Penn State University. We finally overrode Sue and got back onto I-90 headed for Buffalo. By the way, you don't want to be from Erie.

We were at the border in Buffalo about 16:45 and found the NEXUS lane. Thank God, because the other lanes stretched back a long way. We had a very agreeable border guard who wished us a Happy Easter. Appearances led us to think he had had a busy day: he was seated and rather uninterested in our circumstances.

As we made our progress, we noted that almost every car that passed us bore Ontario plates. Mind you: Passed us! Yes, we were observing the speed limits, having seen several of Ohio's Finest doing their duty on motorists. Ergo! Ontario plates were exceeding the speed limits, one after another. By the time we got to the border we discerned that we were in the midst of a snowbird migration back to home base.

Then the hard part started. As we cruised north along the battle front of the War of 1812 the traffic really got denser. By the time we passed the steel mills in Hamilton, that Mr Trump wants to put out of business, we were in serious traffic. It was moving at well over the speed limit and you had to pay close attention.

Usually David enters Toronto from the west by going south of Pearson Airport. He gave Sue her head and went up the 427 corridor. Even when we joined the 401 the traffic was still zipping along – all ten lanes of it.

About half way across Toronto the lanes going west were stopped dead with a major crash. We sailed

on past going east and were home about 19:30 – 1,046 and 12.5 hours door to door.

Louise took Maisie for a leg stretcher while David opened up the house, turned the water on and got the hot water heater going. We unloaded the basics from the van.

Louise made a simple supper which we enjoyed with a bottle of red wine. Then it was off to bed – not sure we actually remember .

Footnote: Elon Musk, as an April Fool's joke, said that Tesla was bankrupt. The shares lost \$3 billion.

Monday April 2nd 2018

When we went bed last night David had heard running water. He quickly traced it to a toilet tank. So he used a pipe wrench to close the water feed.

We woke up absolutely zonked. We had driven the 1,046 kms from Louisville in 12.5 miles. The weather had been good the whole way and the traffic – well, it was Easter Weekend. The Interstates were just a ribbon of potholes. If you swerved to miss one, you hit three others.

Louise took Maisie for an early morning walk. Maisie was very enthusiastic. The two of them covered half of Bonacres and all of Kimbolton before they came back. Funny how happily Maisie greets this territory. Perhaps she feels more comfortable at the higher latitude. An inbred racial memory, Louise wonders?

David worked on the toilet and changed flapper valves. That did not solve the problem.

David went through all his mail.

After breakfast we emptied the van and even got the upright desk into the garage. Then we headed off to Costco. We were going to buy gas but the lineups were huge. The store itself was a zoo. Guess a lot of people had Easter Monday as a holiday. Louise, who bought Costco stock some years ago, is always heartened, despite the difficulty of shopping among the teeming multitudes.

While things in Louisville, Kentucky are basically black or white, in Ajax, Ontario things are more rainbow. Louise noted that the only white folks were the ones with white hair.

After a lunch of Habitant Pea Soup, with ham, David drove to Home Depot to buy a toilet repair kit. On the advice of a store person he bought the “universal” kit. When he got home he took one look and knew it would not fit.

Late afternoon, in sunny but brisk weather, we walked Maisie. Toronto is at least about six weeks behind Louisville. On the street east of us that had undergone massive electrical and fibre optic reconstruction we saw brand new sidewalks and a much cleaner look.

David got Netflix going and Louise planned supper.

BBC: The White House has criticized China after it imposed retaliatory tariffs against the US on a

range of goods including pork and wine. Beijing has introduced duties of up to 25% on 128 American imports following President Donald Trump's decision to slap tariffs on steel and aluminum. China said the move was intended to safeguard its interests and balance losses caused by the new US tariffs.

CBC: Stock markets took a tumble Monday after China raised import duties on U.S. pork, apples and other products. It's too soon to call it the beginning of a trade war, but for now, investors aren't sticking around to find out. Formerly high-flying technology companies like Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon and Alphabet fell. Intel dove 5.7 per cent following a report in Bloomberg News that Apple plans to start using its own chips in Mac computers as early as 2020, replacing Intel. Amazon sank following more broadsides from U.S. President Donald Trump on Twitter, and electric car maker Tesla gave back 4.4 per cent after saying the vehicle in a fatal crash last week in California was operating on autopilot mode, making it the latest accident to involve a semi-autonomous vehicle.

David was reading Churchill in the late afternoon when he fell asleep.

We had bought some cooked shrimp at Costco so Louise came up with a tasty new variation on shrimp and rice, seasoned with shallots and brightened by a bit of yellow bell pepper, accompanied by a happy, fresh tossed salad. We had to at least 'try' our President's Choice vanilla ice cream, just to make sure we'd made a wise choice. A spoonful each proved to justify our selection.

After supper we watched two episodes of "Gilmore Girls" and then hit the hay and slept very soundly for at least eight hours.

Tuesday April 3rd 2018

At first light David had to work on a second toilet. They seem to need constant exercise or they get out of shape.

Louise and Maisie went out for the down patrol and covered the same territory as yesterday. Yesterday Louise had not dressed warmly enough, but today the opposite was true. It is in the 30s, but no wind today.

Weather: Toronto 36F to 38F rain Louisville 57F to 75F cloud and thunderstorms

CBC: In a proposition certain to raise the darkest of suspicions, Donald Trump last month invited the Russian leader to the White House during a phone call that experts say risks opening diplomatic doors to the Kremlin at exactly the wrong time. Former diplomats and Russian scholars warn that the U.S. president's chat with Vladimir Putin — and specifically Trump's floating of a possible White House visit for Putin — weakens the global diplomatic squeeze against the Kremlin just when it should be applying pressure. The move, they say, could invite more Russian mischief. Trump last month congratulated Putin on winning what was widely presumed to be a fraud-tainted election, despite reports his staff told him not to fete the Russian leader. Trump told reporters that, during their call, he suggested the two leaders should meet "in the not-too-distant future."

BBC: Fiji's prime minister has said the Pacific island nation is in "a fight for survival" as climate change brings "almost constant" deadly cyclones. Frank Bainimarama said Fiji had entered a "frightening new era" of extreme weather that needed to be confronted.

Whenever we go away for a long time, the computer systems want to upgrade everything. It gets very tedious when you are trying to do something important and the “box” gets a mind of its own.

While David was fighting with “Hal”, Louise was reading a NYT article lauding Arthur C. Clarke for his brilliant, percipient creation of the 2001 story in 1968. Please note the coincidence of dates in the next paragraph.

In addition to that, Paul Krugman's NYT editorial entitled “What's The Matter With Trumpland?” begins with a statement that “this isn't a new story, or just about politics. Things have been falling apart on multiple fronts since the 1970s: Political polarization has marched side by side with economic polarization, as income inequality has soared.”

We have seen how the Trump presidency, if you can call it that, is exactly where the USA has been headed for several decades. And not without more than a large input of help from the Republican Party, that now sees itself exactly where it strove to be: Sitting in the Catbird Seat, perhaps? Or it is more likely on the edge of a cliff? Do not despair, Dear Reader, this play has a few more acts to go . . .

At 10:15 we drove off to see a cosmetic surgeon to see if he could fix David's drooping eyelids. Harvard Medical School: a drooping eyelid is also called ptosis or blepharoptosis. In this condition, the border of the upper eyelid falls to a lower position than normal. In severe cases, the drooping eyelid can cover all or part of the pupil and interfere with vision. All went well and David is scheduled for April 28th.

On the way home we dropped into Home Depot to pick up pieces to fix two toilets.

David went to the bank to get folding money, deposit US cheques and to send tax material to Vancouver. Vancouver wanted the package by April 6th, but David had received tax slips as late as April 3rd.

Then it was toilet wrestling. Everything had to be done twice as the first time things kept dribbling or dripping. The weird angles really did a job on David's back. He does not do well trying to be a pretzel.

Louise treated David to a sip of her single malt Highland Park on ice – no water or mix.

After supper dinner we watched three delightfully silly and fun episodes of “Gilmore Girls” on Netflix.

Wednesday April 4th 2018

It rained all night and the noise from the skylights made it hard to sleep. David dreamed we were on a train and we missed our stop. We each had two suitcases that we could not pack in time. Wonder where we were?

Weather: Toronto 41F to 41F cloud Louisville 38F to 46F part cloud

As soon as Louise had a sip of coffee Maisie was out on Dawn Patrol. It was very windy. However, the stalwart twosome made a big circle of some of the streets down the hill, that is off the ridge overlooking the ravine in a far less windy area.

CBC: China quickly hit back on Wednesday at the Trump administration's plans to slap tariffs on \$50 billion US in Chinese goods, retaliating with a list of similar duties on key American imports including soybeans, planes, cars, whisky and chemicals. The speed with which the trade struggle between Washington and Beijing is ratcheting up — the Chinese government took less than 11 hours to respond with its own measures — led to a sharp sell-off in global stock markets and commodities. Investors are wondering whether one of the worst trade disputes in many years could now turn into a full-scale trade war between the world's two economic superpowers.

Louise took two minutes 34 seconds to complete the NYTX while David took only two minutes and 5 seconds. Must have been the bracing northern climate.

Microsoft started bugging David to free up 8 gig of disk to permit a software update to Windows 10. David had to ditch legacy programs, but did not free up enough space.

Then it all hit the fan. Checking the basement before breakfast, we found leaks in the Pub due to the fact that the City of Toronto had forced the disconnect of downspouts into the drains. Too much surface water had accumulated as a result of the torrential rain last night. Tiny rivulets were seeping from the outer base boards. Fortunately, they were flowing across the tiled floor into the basement floor drain.

BUT, as we were leaving the basement we noticed that the ceiling in the basement powder/sauna room had collapsed into the sink. After ripping out a lot of ceiling drywall, the problem was identified as a water pipe leak. Home Service was called for immediate relief. A plumber showed up around 11:30 hrs.

It took about 90 minutes to effect the repair. There was a pinhole crack in the water hammer on the hot water side of the basement sink. The plumber was quick and efficient. The repair was done and he was on his way, probably to another similar problem, in short order. David was able to restore running water to the house so that life could go on.

Now we just have to let the ceiling and wall dry out before contemplating how to effect a repair. Referring back to Louise's upstairs plumbing failures in Louisville of a couple of years ago, we know not to be in a hurry to close up the wet areas.

There had been a horrific windstorm starting about 11:00 hrs. At one point the BBQ awning started sliding down the back deck, even though it was tethered. David got some long screws and secured the base to the deck.

Louise and Maisie braved the elements a few times and each time pretty quickly. The sound of the wind behind them was like that of a train engine or a tornado rushing up. Branches, large and small, were littering the street and sidewalks.

About 15:00 the power went out. It was to be expected given the number of tree limbs that must have been blown down.

While there was still reasonable daylight, we read in the sitting room.

Without any electricity we had to get creative. We had the gas cook top but could not light it the normal way as there was no electricity. So, we used a match. Then we lit a number of candles to add some romantic warmth.

We kept three burners going on the gas stove top to add warmth to the kitchen. The temperature came up nicely. About 18:00 we opened a can of Habitant Pea Soup as we thought that was a rustic choice.

We sat for a nice long while watching the sunset behind the ravine. The sky became very interesting; that is, the clouds, but there was really no sunset to see due to the heavy cloud on the horizon.

We were about to give up and have an early bedtime when the lights came back on. However it was too late to watch any Netflix.

Thursday April 5th 2018

We woke up at first light, about 06:00 hrs. There was a dusting of snow on the ground and it was about 20F, according to David's upstairs deck thermometer. We had no Internet as it appeared that the Roger's cable powering the phones, internet and burglar alarm was down. Catch 22 – we could not phone Roger's to ask for service as the phones were down. But, Louise had her iPhone.

About 07:05 the Scottish twosome went out to check the neighbourhood while David tried to get the technicals sorted out. He checked the outside of the house and saw that a Rogers' technician had been into David's cable junction box and strung a cable over the fence to his neighbour. All the internal boxes were working, but flashing lights showed there was no inbound cable connection.

So, we have had a great homecoming. First, two toilets had to be rebuilt, second the basement powder room had to be fixed and third the cable went down. As Mr Shakespeare said, “Troubles come not single spies, but in battalions.” (TCNSSBIB) The pattern seems to be: when one leaves one's property to its own devices for a while, entropy gets to work at double time speed.

Louise decided that we deserved some waffles. Maisie agreed as she loves waffles. Louise heated some maple syrup in a glass coffee creamer. When David picked it up the bottom fell out. TCNSSBIB.

Over breakfast Louise suggested that David should call his insurance company to get the basement powder room repaired. It had not even occurred to David as he has not filed an insurance claim since his old house in Thornhill, about 1985. Guess what – that was also a burst water pipe. Of course he could not phone State Farm Insurance because the phone was not working. We both guessed that insurance companies would be quite busy after yesterday's wind storm.

David finally figured out that the reason his Solid State Drive “C” was full was because Microsoft sends all pictures and documents to the folders of the same name onto Drive C. David copied the content on to his data drive “D” to ease off over 23 gig - 15,574 files.

While Louise drove the vacuum cleaner, David set up a new photo album. Featured of course were the recent changes we made to the basement powder room. Then David was issued a Swiffer and told to mop the lower floor rooms where there was wood.

We needed gas for the van so David drove to the nearby Esso station and bought \$20 worth – the gas gauge barely moved. The second chore was to ask Rogers when the cable might be restored. David stood in line behind six other people while a very fat couple monopolized the desk. When a woman showed up with her iPhone on Rogers, the banal recitation of menu options drove David crazy – he left.

On the way home he spotted a Rogers truck on our street. David first saw the tech and then immediately saw what the problem was. A tree had been blown down and the root ball had popped up and snapped the cable. The guy said it would be fixed within an hour.

When David got home the vacuum cleaner was still howling. It was a toss up – which was worse - a vacuum cleaner or standing in line at Rogers?

We had a tasty lunch of spring rolls with plum sauce and Tetley tea.

While Louise took a break to rest her back, David plotted just how we could move Louise's desk from the garage into the Family Room. There were two steps up and two steps down frustrating a simple roll on the built-in desk castors.

Using some simple Egyptian Engineering, we got the desk from the garage into the family room. Louise now has her own place to store important junk – more importantly, a home for her Mac Book.

David got the NYTX in one minute and 58 seconds. Louise did it in one minute and 23 seconds.

We spent some time reading, enjoying some slack time. David continues to plumb the depths of Churchill's life and times. Louise is involved in what she calls for lack of a better word, desultory reading. Collections of The Best American Essays of this or that year has provided her with several memorable reads, often by little-known authors. The latest was A Snapping Turtle in June by Edward Burroughs, found in the 1989 collection edited by Geoffrey Wolff. The essay was completely captivating on several levels. Professor Burroughs was completely unknown to Louise. The writing of these essays is stunningly solid and good.

Then we took Maisie for a walk up our street to take a photo of the tree that had blown down and cut our cable service. It was crisp but there was no wind so it was a pleasant meander. Sidewalks throughout the neighbourhood were liberally strewn with twig and branches. We kept our eyes peeled for signs of spring . . . with little luck this time, only a few daffodil stems peeping up a couple of inches in one place.

David made an appointment by e-mail to go to Nissan in Ajax to look at the all-electric Leaf. We will get our first hands-on experience at 13:30 on Monday, April 9th.

For supper we had the leftover pea soup and half a thin crust pizza with salad.

We then went into a series of “Gilmore Girls” episodes, each one endearing simple and silly. And yet the eternal generation gap or conflict raises its ugly head to give the series a more profound than not sense of verisimilitude.

Friday April 6th 2018

Weather: Toronto 31F to 38F cloud & snow showers Louisville 45F to 59F cloud

At 07:10 Louise took Maisie out for a biological break. The duo made their way around Bonacres and back down Colonel Danforth again at double time. It was clouded over but not too bad given that there was no wind.

CBC: As U.S. President Donald Trump threatens what many say is an unnecessary trade war with China, he may be creating an even more dangerous and powerful trade competitor. Rather than cowing China into submission with trade threats, experts who study international trade say, Trump may instead be hastening the day when the Asian giant supersedes the United States as the world's most influential economy. Trump has instructed the U.S. trade representative to consider slapping \$100 billion US in additional tariffs on Chinese goods. The move comes a day after China issued a \$50 billion list of U.S. goods, including soybeans and small aircraft, for possible tariff hikes. There is a certain irony that the conditions that made the United States the world's undisputed economic leader, overcoming its British parent in the late 1800s, may now exist in China.

NYTX: David got it in one minute and 39 seconds. Louise got skunked.

Louise wanted a book from the Toronto Public Library. When we signed in using our TPL access card, the website reported that there were network difficulties.

David phoned State Farm Insurance about the water damage in the basement. He called too early and got a person who barely spoke English. The only take-away was the \$1,000 deductible. So, we will probably do the work ourselves.

The NYT had two good editorials today: One by Madeleine Albright and the other about the Canadian, Jordan Peterson. Ms. Albright's succeeded in being alarming, as was predictable. Another voice crying in the wind. The one about Jordan Peterson was also a look at the present-day Canadian ethos. And we learned today that Macron is trying to oust a radical imam.

By mid-morning we had juicy snow showers. But, as the surface temperature was just above freezing, nothing stuck.

Louise retreated to her upstairs studio that overlooks the ravine. She futzed about breaking out her painting paraphernalia.

Louise looked at ergonomic kneeling chairs. The Amazon US price was half the Amazon Canada price for the exact same chair. Yikes!

Financial Post: China said it would counter U.S. protectionism “to the end, and at any cost,” as a war of words over President Donald Trump’s proposed tariffs on Chinese imports escalated. The statement from Beijing came after Trump ordered his administration to consider tariffs on an additional US\$100 billion in Chinese goods on Thursday, sending U.S. stock futures tumbling. The U.S. president cited “China’s unfair retaliation” in response to his list of proposed tariffs earlier this week covering US\$50 billion in Chinese products.

National Post: The United States imposed new economic sanctions on senior Russian politicians, companies and business leaders Friday, citing a list of complaints including Moscow's attempts to undermine Western democracies, support of separatists in Ukraine and its backing for Syrian President Bashar Assad. The new economic sanctions – the Trump administration's most aggressive action against Kremlin-connected individuals – target 17 Russian government officials, a state-owned weapons trading company, and seven so-called oligarchs and 12 companies affiliated with them.

For lunch we had tomato soup and the leftover pizza.

In a fairly heavy snow squall we drove over to see Nathalie, the Pickering Hair Twister, for a 13:30 appointment. As we got about two miles east, the express lane was stopped dead. Fortunately, our collector lane was not affected. On the way home we stooped at No Frills for essentials and then Shopper's Drug Mart for even more absolute makeup essentials.

CBC: Nearly half of all new condos sales that were finalized last year in the Greater Toronto Area were for rental purposes, but income from them could be falling short of ownership costs, according to a new study by CIBC. Rental investors accounted for 48 per cent of new condo closings in 2017— with the majority of them buying the property through a mortgage at 77 per cent, according to the CIBC Capital Markets and Urbanation report released Friday. But more than 44 per cent of mortgage holders were cash flow negative — meaning the owners were spending more to maintain the condos every month than they were getting in rental income.

David repaired his mailbox, which under the Rule Of Entropy, had managed to fall apart just standing still.

All afternoon we had the weirdest mixture of sun and snow squalls. There were big, beautiful snowflakes, rain-like frozen water, and even little white pellets that made a noise on ones hood. Maisie and Louise went out to experience all of it and returned to 107 CDT to find sunlight breaking out in the ravine.

We had hamburgers and salad for supper. These are not just ordinary hamburgers – we have honed our skills and now think that no other hamburger meets our standard. Salad tonight was an avocado half topped with sour cream and salsa, nested on a bed of assorted greens.

Time for Maisie's last sortie of the day and then time to read for about an hour and then to dive into “the Gilmore Girls”.

And so to bed on what we hope is one of our last wintry days for this spring.

Saturday April 7th 2018

David woke up about 03:00 to the sounds of a fierce gale blowing everything around in the ravine. The trees were groaning as the branches lashed each other.

We got up at 06:00 and brewed some coffee. While the coffee maker dripped, we tackled the big Saturday NYTX. David got it in three minutes and 37 seconds, while Louise was a bit faster.

It was a special walk for the dawn patrol, as David has decided to join the two Scots, his aching back having healed a bit. Cold and sunny, it was, so all went well. Looking for signs of spring requires a bit of faith still and all. It was only 20F with the vestiges of a one quarter moon showing. We saw the first signs of tulips breaking out.

Saturday was laundry day and the first load went in before we went for the early morning walk.

Weather: Toronto 20F to 35F sunny Louisville: 30F to 45 F snow showers

CBC: The RCMP confirmed 15 fatalities and 14 injuries in a collision involving a junior hockey team's bus in Saskatchewan on Friday, with rescue efforts ongoing late into the evening. Police say there were 28 people on the bus at the time of the crash, including the driver. The Nipawin Hawks of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League say the crash involved the team bus of the Humboldt Broncos. The crash happened about 30 kilometres north of Tisdale, Sask.

BBC: The US state of Texas is deploying National Guard members to the border with Mexico following a call from President Donald Trump. A Guard spokesman said 250 personnel would be sent to patrol the area within the next 72 hours. Arizona is also planning to deploy 150 troops there next week. President Trump says he wants to send up to 4,000 National Guard members to secure the border with Mexico, until his proposed border wall is built. The states of New Mexico and California have been asked to take similar action to Texas and Arizona.

After a cheese omelette breakfast, with big juicy blueberries on the side, the real work began. Top of the list was mucking out the basement powder room. It took over an hour before it was halfway presentable.

The next step was to take the vacuum cleaner, with the carpet brush engaged, to get the tracked-in plaster out of the basement carpet. It took over two hours to get the place looking as though nothing had happened. Apart from some mirror polishing the bathroom was fully serviceable – it just had a three square foot hole in the ceiling.

After getting himself cleaned up, David was having a cup of tea in the family room when he noticed that a clock he had bought in the Black Forest in 1980 was not working. He had replaced the battery just the day before. When he took things apart he found that the anode in the battery compartment was thoroughly covered in an oxide. One of the major maintenance tasks on the Centurion tank was battery maintenance. So, it took David no time at all to get the clock working again. Entropy.

BBC: Two people were killed in the city of Muenster, in western Germany, after a van drove into pedestrians. The driver of the vehicle has killed himself.

[David visited the 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards in Muenster about 1965. In those days he drank Canadian Club rye with Canada Dry ginger ale. Without thinking, he asked the barman for a rye and ginger. The British barman gave him rye with British ginger beer – ugh! David met up again with the 4/7th RDG peacekeeping in Cyprus 1967-68]

We had organic lentil soup for lunch. We topped it off with frozen blueberries with vanilla ice cream. Maisie hates ice cream. [Editor's Note: in terms of English language usage the last sentence might be properly: We find these 'slices of life' called *understatement*.]

It was totally dull outside and only 33F after lunch. So, we buried ourselves in our books. David and Winston still had to win World War Two. Rommel and the Germans had been defeated in North Africa and the invasion of Sicily was next. [The Canadian Army landed at Pachino, Sicily between the Americans and British in Operation Husky in July, 1943]

Mid-afternoon Louise took Maisie out. David's back had taken quite a beating cleaning up the basement mess so he stayed home to braise the cubes of beef in the cast iron frying pan and to do some chopping. When Louise got back, le chef de la cuisine took over the preparation of a special dinner. After much more dicing and slicing, this special stew was set to simmer with an anticipated plating at 18:30 hrs. A delicate Chilean red, "Santa Carolina" Cabernet Sauvignon was paired with the dish.

We watched three episodes of "Gilmore Girls". It got a bit serious at one point, but soon reverted to frivolity.

Sunday April 8th 2018

David was up early and made coffee. He served sleepy Louise a cup in bed.

It was a hard brisk cool sunny morning when we launched for the Dawn Patrol at 07:00 hrs. Mr Rogers still had the outside lights on not knowing that dawn had already occurred.

Along the way we heard many signs that Spring was arriving. The Red Wing Blackbirds were chanting "Bob-a-Gee" quite stridently. Woodpeckers were hammering on the tree bark trying to wake up the bugs for breakfast. On every lawn a robin was patrolling making sure no interloper stole turf.

Maisie got quite a shock when a ginger cat offered a direct challenge. Maisie actually ducked behind a telephone pole until she could figure out what to do. Louise was holding onto the leash for dear life. Having once years ago had a dog attacked by a cat, all claws extended, Louise knows to be leery of cat fear as it turns into aggression abruptly

We saw our first snow drops peeking out and vestiges of day lilies poking up.

Weather: Toronto 26F to 35F sun & cloud Louisville 30F to 47 F sunny

BBC: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has started a 12-year prison sentence for corruption. After a two-day stand-off with police, the former Brazilian president had to force his way through crowds of his supporters to hand himself in.

CBC: Mark Zuckerberg didn't mince words during a phone call with reporters last week: If you had ever publicly posted something to Facebook, there's a pretty good chance that information was now in someone else's hands.

Louise served up a delicious breakfast of fried prosciutto and fried eggs on seven grain toasted bread.

We have now been back in Toronto one week. It seems to take seven days to get things sorted out.

Louise got a bad case of Spring Fever and started cleaning upstairs and downstairs. David and Maisie did not escape – they both got groomed.

We had plum sauce with spring rolls for lunch, with a dessert of snow flurries followed by sun showers. The weather is very mixed up.

After some quiet time, we went for a mid-afternoon walk. There was a biting wind which tended to take the fun out of the perambulation. Maisie goes a lot faster in cold weather.

About 17:00 we started making preparations for a quiche. Lots of cheese got grated. Then there was the dicing and slicing of green onions, yellow onions, mushrooms.

Supper was delicious. A golden brown pie with great flavours.

After reading for a while, we watched three episodes of “Gilmore Girls”. One, dealing with money, was very serious.