

## Monday June 4th 2018

We were awake by 05:30 and snoozed a bit until 06:05 hrs. We brewed some coffee and emptied the dishwasher. Maisie started barking loudly to tell us that her Cairn Cousin named Digby was talking to the hated white dog.

After a cup of coffee we went for a cool walk. It was quite windy so a jacket was needed. The iris were at their best. The black locust trees were awash with their lovely white blooms. A rabbit let us get within 15 feet so we got a great photo. Maisie was very disciplined. Soon after we got home it started to sprinkle – no rain had been forecast.

Weather: Toronto 62F to 66F cloudy    Louisville 62F to 78F sun  
NYTX: David got it in two minutes and 1 second.

We had toasted buns, boiled eggs and mixed fruit for breakfast.

BBC: Guatemala's most violent volcano eruption in more than a century has killed at least 25 people. The Fuego volcano, about 40km (25 miles) south-west of the capital Guatemala City, spewed rock, gas and ash into the sky on Sunday. Fast-moving flows hit villages, killing people inside their homes. Hundreds were injured and many are missing. The country's main airport was closed.

About 09:30 we made the run to Costco in Ajax. The banks on the side of the 401 were covered with wild phlox in its three colours. First we lined up for the petrol pumps and then went into the store to purchase much-needed supplies. Note: We did not buy any clothing – that was a first.

Ontario's election is all but down to two parties, if the polls are correct, but more than two dozen are actually competing, including those targeting the vegan vote, the anti-sex-ed vote and the no-vote vote.

Beyond the usual Progressive Conservative, NDP and Liberal suspects exists a grab bag of minor and fringe parties, some of which can only hope to garner a few handfuls of votes but still gamely vie for voters' attention as an alternative to the big three.

From the Web: Trump isn't trying to correct trade deficits. He's trying to break down the single strongest trading relationship America has. Ripping up NAFTA would be like trying to tear off your own arm and then beating yourself to death with it.

For lunch David cooked up a pot of Knorr leek soup. Louise crafted a tasty sandwich of 7 grain rye bread, sliced salami, Havarti cheese with thinly sliced Moische's dill pickle. Maisie was quite upset that the beer she ordered failed to arrive.

Then it was off to Home Depot to pick out a bathroom mirror and to pick up some stucco – hopefully the finishing touches for both the powder rooms. We saw a mirror we liked, but they had none in stock. They had no stucco – it was on the US website and Trump has embargoed stucco. So, we bought a \$6 bag of Plaster of Paris hoping that we can replicate stucco.

Louise had heard about Lee Valley. So, we went there for reconnaissance purposes. They have some really neat stuff.

After that we hit Walmart. Louise had a hankering for Heinz sandwich spread. They had none. Louise found a brush for Maisie and some nail polish. On the way out, we saw a woman with a Golden puppy wearing his 'dog-in-training' jacket. This puts a lump in Louise's throat, both for the dog who will be a valuable guide dog and for the wonderful people who take these dogs into their homes and lives for the formative training months, only to let them go to work elsewhere in future.

Louise continues in The Bounty. She has got to the two-thirds mark and can't put it down.

BBC: Starbucks executive chairman Howard Schultz said he is quitting the company after nearly four decades. Mr Schultz, 64, started working for Starbucks in 1982 as director of operations and marketing. He has led the board since 1985 and was chief executive for much of that period. During his tenure with the firm, Starbucks grew from 11 outlets to more than 28,000 and its share price rose by 21,000%.

For supper we had President's Choice cheese fondue with Costco baguette and Chilean Ambrosia apple slices – Louise fished out the 3438 UPC from the garbage to make sure. On the side, Louise had prepared warm Panko'd asparagus and a chick pea and lettuce salad. Dessert was freshly sliced strawberries, sprinkled with cane sugar.

From Netflix, we watched Sandra Bullock in “28 Days”. Ordered by a court into rehab for 28 days she and co-stars Viggo Mortensen, Dominic West, Elizabeth Perkins, Steve Buscemi, and Diane Ladd showed the stark reality of substance abuse.

### **Tuesday June 5th 2018**

Weather: Toronto 54F to 64F cloudy Louisville 60F to 84F sun

The garbage and compost bins went to the curb as per the first line of the US National Anthem - “By the dawn's early light ....”

The Dawn Patrol was executed under rather brisk conditions. Maisie charges like a bull when it is cooler. Along the way we saw evidence that Rocky Raccoon had knocked off bins that people put out last night. We were back home at 07:15 and Louise immediately went back to The Bounty.

In keeping with the Scottish weather, we had oatmeal for breakfast.

CBC: After cannabis is legalized throughout Canada later this year, Canadians are expected to increase their consumption of the drug by up to 35 per cent and spend as much as \$7 billion on legal and illegal sales in 2019. Legal cannabis sales are expected to reach up to \$4.34 billion, while illegal sales could be anywhere from \$510 million to \$1.04 billion, and medical cannabis could account for between \$770 million and \$1.79 billion of the market, the report says.

BBC: Powerful US billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch are funding a multi-million dollar campaign against President Donald Trump's trade tariffs. Three political groups backed by the brothers say they will use advertising, lobbying and grassroots campaigns to push the benefits of free trade. The duo run Koch Industries, one of the world's largest privately-owned firms.

Shortly after 09:00 we drove to Pickering to visit Lowe's Hardware. We were looking for a Powder Room mirror and plaster for the basement ceiling repair. We found one mirror but thought it was too wide – at 27.5 inches we thought it would overhang the 24 inch vanity. So, we chose a smaller oval mirror. When we got home we measured the vanity and found that the first mirror would have fit.

As we turned into the driveway, we saw a neighbour about to walk her dog. Then another neighbour turned the corner with dog in tow. Then the neighbour across the street brought over his dog. While Louise joined this impromptu Dogfest, David bailed out to keep Maisie company within the house. Note: Maisie did not bark recognizing that Louise saw them as “good dogs”.

Louise met a neighbour who is recently back from a trip to Estonia. It seems that there are several former Estonians living on Colonel Danforth now.

The dog encounter over, we set about the mirror situation. We decided the smaller oval mirror was in fact much more suitable in the small powder room. David messed up in the correct direction. After positioning the mirror for orientation and height, the trick was to nail it to the wall above the sink. David powered up his stud finder and found out we missed the stud by one inch and had to go to Plan B.

First we twisted on picture hanging wire on the back to put the mirror in the vertical axis. Then, using Euclidean geometry, the exact point for the support hanger was found. A hole was drilled in the drywall, a plastic plug inserted and the screw nail torqued into place.

Then the two hand towel rings needed to be located above the toilet. This called up a much more complicated series of Pythagorean computations involving set squares and all the other geometry aids that David had mastered in drafting at Royal Roads in 1960.

Finally, a round wooden piece of marquetry, acquired in Poland about 1981, was hung on the wall using the aforementioned geometry. About 11:30 the Powder Room was declared complete and fully operational. Whew! Double Whew! This process began in January you will remember, Dear Reader.

The fall-like weather continues. The overcast breaks up now and again, but the sun does nothing to warm the atmosphere. The wind has stopped today.

We had half a sandwich with Moische's coleslaw for lunch.

While David started working on the basement ceiling – again – Louise got on the phone to Road Scholar to examine flight possibilities for New Zealand in January, 2019.

After about 45 minutes David was willing to concede that it was impossible to match the colour and texture of stucco trowelled on in 1981. Structurally, the ceiling was complete – cosmetically, it had a long way to go.

Louise booked us Economy Plus for the trip to New Zealand.

We did a mid-afternoon walk, just in time to greet the school bus. The sky was a grim grey. But, the first peonies were out, as was the “Beauty Bush”.

We previewed some Netflix material – the pickings were slim.

Supper was BBQd pork ribs in sauce with acorn squash, brussels sprouts and arugula salad greens.

We found “Notting Hill” on Netflix. William Thacker (Hugh Grant) is a London bookstore owner whose humdrum existence is thrown into romantic turmoil when famous American actress Anna Scott (Julia Roberts) appears in his shop. A chance encounter over spilled orange juice leads to a kiss that blossoms into a full-blown affair. As the average bloke and glamorous movie star draw closer and closer together, they struggle to reconcile their radically different lifestyles in the name of love.

### **Wednesday June 6th 2018**

At dawn the balcony thermometer read 50F – aargh!

Weather: Toronto 52F to 64F part cloud Louisville 65F to 81 F sun

NYTX: David one minute and 14 seconds Louise rained on his parade with 43 seconds.

Louise finished “The Bounty”. Ms. Alexander has followed every lead, trail, ripple, and breeze to flesh out a great story. The book is a pleasure to read. The author's asides and surmises often bring a smile of delight, and the research to make this possible is admirable, but not intrusive on the joy of reading. A good tale, well told!

David finished “The Yellow Admiral”, but cannot recommend it.

CBC: Guatemala's Volcano of Fire has killed at least 75 people since it erupted three days ago. The death toll stands in stark contrast to the nearly month-long eruption of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii, which has also caused massive destruction but has spared human life.

It was so cool that we both wore winter top coats for the morning stroll. Right out the door, we saw a mother raccoon escorting four kits across the street and down into the ravine. The kits had been to kindergarten where they were learning how to knock off garbage bins.

The Canadian government is rejecting a push by the Trump administration to strike separate, bilateral trade deals with Canada and Mexico instead of pushing ahead with a stalled effort to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement. Ottawa's refusal Tuesday to pursue a one-on-one trade deal with the United States came after Donald Trump's top economic adviser said the president was serious about pursuing bilateral agreements with its NAFTA partners.

David made one last attempt to smooth out the appearance of the basement powder room ceiling. Once again he proved that you cannot make a silk purse out of a pig's ear.

About 08:30 Maisie, much to her dismay, was groomed. She might have even liked the new brush that Louise bought at Walmart. Louise reported that she was almost compliant, and she does look and feel better, according again to Louise.

Just after 09:00 Maisie started sounding weird. There was a doe browsing the euonymous in the back yard. David got a couple of photos, but the deer got spooked by Maisie and bounded down into the

ravine.

At 10:30 we drove off to see Dr Rice. We arrived a bit early so we did a short stop at Mark's Work Wearhouse, a Canadian company founded in Calgary in 1977, now affiliated with Canadian Tire, it operates 380 stores.

We got in to see Dr Rice 15 minutes early and he took David immediately. The procedure took about ten minutes to remove the insect bite lesion from David's left calf that he acquired at Amelia Island, January 2017.

At home, we had a salad for lunch. We followed that with a sinful bowl of sliced strawberries and vanilla ice cream.

Louise went up to do some oil painting, while David went down to do some latex ceiling painting.

First David sanded the ceiling and then vacuumed up the dust. Then using various rollers and painting pads he managed to get priming paint on just about every surface but the ceiling. Recognizing defeat, he finally gave up.

Louise had better luck in her atelier and declared the oil painting of the cardinal pair finished.

For supper we had French Canadian Habitant Pea Soup with brochette à Louise.

We did a search on Netflix to find “Four Weddings and a Funeral”. It was not there. Instead we settled for a Hugh Grant weird thing that David found incredibly dull. “About a Boy” was a comedy-drama starring Hugh Grant as Will, a rich, child-free and irresponsible Londoner in his thirties who, in search of available women, invents an imaginary son and starts attending single parent meetings. As a result of one of his liaisons, he meets Marcus, an odd 12-year-old boy with problems at school. Gradually, Will and Marcus become friends, and as Will teaches Marcus how to be a cool kid, Marcus helps Will to finally grow up. David rated it as “BORING”.

### **Thursday June 7th 2018**

We were up at 05:45 and David soon found out that his desktop computer was seriously messed up. It simply dumped any web-based connections. It would appear that a USB port was having a hissy fit. He fixed the problem by plugging the DLink antenna, that picks up the Internet signal from the router, into a different USB port.

Second, he was hurting after the basement ceiling repairs.

BUT, he did win 3 million pounds from England Premiere League Soccer 2017/2018 promotion. All he had to do to claim his prize was to give away all his confidential information.

Weather: Toronto 59F to 69F mostly cloud    Louisville 64F to 89F mostly sun  
NYTX: Louise one minute 19 seconds    David one minute 34 seconds

The sun came through for our morning walk. We tried for photos of the “Beauty Bush” but there was

so little light on it that we had to use flash.

We had cheesy scrambled eggs and half a slice of toast for breakfast. After that David continued to clean up the downstairs powder room. With all the plaster and paint clutter out of the way, and tile floors vacuumed and 'Swiffered', it did not look half bad.

CBC: There is a G7 Summit in progress. There is an official agenda for this week's Group of Seven summit in Charlevoix, Que. — though it may be a struggle to get the leaders to stick to it. There are going to be so many sources of pent-up tension between U.S. President Donald Trump and the other leaders in the room, and so little time to air them. Trump will be on the ground in Canada for only 28 hours. How do you discuss "jobs of the future" with a president who wants to recruit the next generation of coal miners? How do you agree on "growth that works for everyone" with a president who sees trade as a zero-sum game in which, for America to win, everyone else has to lose?

David had an appointment at 11:00 with his family physician to get the report on his recent CT scan. It is official – David has gallstones. His Scan showed nothing else of concern and his blood work is good, so he can be scheduled for surgery to remove the gallbladder.

To celebrate David took Louise to Tilley's. We bought two hats, one for David and one for a friend in Kentucky. The Tilley store has changed a lot since our last visit. Tons of merchandise are crowded into the space. There was no one to help us, only to check us out with our purchase. Just like every other store now . . . overpriced, predictable, overstuffed and under staffed!

We drove home and stopped briefly at a local church that was a polling station for the Ontario provincial election. David voted for the party that he hoped would become the Loyal Opposition and counter balance a Ford government.

For lunch it was deli sandwiches and ginger ale. The sandwich was toasted 7 grain bread with salami slices, Havarti cheese, sliced onion and sliced dill pickle – with a dab of Dijon mustard.

After lunch David took the pruning shears and cut dead wood off the rose bushes. Louise got on the phone to get an estimate for taking down a dying pine tree on the back lawn.

Then Louise went back to painting her woodpeckers. The ivory-billed woodpecker was one of the largest woodpeckers in the world, at roughly 20 inches long and 30 inches in wingspan. It was native to the virgin forests of the Southeastern United States. *It is now extinct. As is another Southern bird, the Carolina Parrot.*

We had a good afternoon walk. As Goldilocks would say, "It was not too hot nor too cold".

For dinner we had roasted chicken breast with a toasted bun. On the side there was a avocado with tomato bruschetta and sour cream salad.

We watched Part 1 of the 1962 epic "Lawrence of Arabia" on Netflix. The story of T.E. Lawrence, the English officer who successfully united and led the diverse, often warring, Arab tribes during World War I in order to fight the Turks. The film starred Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness, Jack Hawkins, Anthony Quinn, Omar Sharif, Anthony Quayle, Claude Rains and Arthur Kennedy.

The Progressive Conservatives took over governing Ontario from the Liberals. While Kathleen Wynne, the outgoing Premier, was re-elected in her own riding of Don Valley West in Toronto, the Liberals fell just shy of the eight seats needed to maintain official party status in the province of Ontario, with MPs elected in just seven ridings. This was an historic reversal of fortunes.

### **Friday June 8th 2018**

We were late on the morning walk. There were too many people around.

Weather: Toronto 58F to 70F clouds & sun    Louisville 72F to 93F part cloud  
NYTX: David two minutes 44 seconds

BBC: A key legislative hurdle has been passed as Canada moves closer to legalizing recreational cannabis. Canadian senators passed the Cannabis Act by 56 votes to 30 with one abstention after studying the landmark legislation for six months. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has committed to making marijuana legal by this summer.

We had cold cereal for breakfast and fresh strawberries and then drove to “No Frills”.

After that David tackled the water pressure problem that has been bugging us for a very long time. The City Water folks tested the pressure and reported that it was just fine entering the house. Ergo, the pressure drop is within the house. David disassembled an input valve that he suspected. However, it was innocent of all charges.

CBC: Canada flatly rejected Donald Trump's suggestion to reinstate Russia in the G7, four years after it was expelled from the group of industrialized nations for annexing Ukraine's Crimea. Before departing for the G7 summit in Charlevoix, Que., Trump called on the G7 leaders to let Russia back in.

After a bowl of sweet potato soup it was time to get some work done. Louise went upstairs and continued to work on her new canvas depicting the huge ivory-billed woodpecker (IBW). David went into the basement to sort out the dehumidifier drainage issue. By supper Louise had to stop working on the IBW to let the paint dry so that another layer could be added. So, Louise sketched in a new canvas.

Both in Louisville and Toronto we had discovered that one has to leave a dehumidifier running constantly if the dreaded mould is to be avoided. In Louisville there was a convenient floor drain close to the humidifier. In Toronto we had run a long length of plastic tubing along the floor to a floor drain in the Pub. The latter was not elegant. After much pondering, the solution was to drill a hole in the basement partition into the workshop. Once inside, the plastic draining tube was routed to the sump pump.

We had cod for supper and enjoyed this Newfoundland delicacy with Brussels sprouts and an avocado salad.

We watched the PBS News Hour. Trump tantrums are starting to sound like Aesop's Fables.

Then it was back to El Aurens. Louise decided Peter O'Toole looked like Julie Christie. David had

visited both Wadi Rum (The Seven Pillars of Wisdom) and Aqaba so he was reliving old memories. David's photo albums of Morocco, Jordan, and Israel were recommended to Louise. She looked at all of them and read the blogs. She had visited Rabat and Petra herself and will now count those two visits, along with David's excellent travelogue, sufficiently enlightening for all the rest.

### Saturday June 9th 2018

Weather: Toronto 60F to 72F mostly cloud    Louisville 70F to 91F sun  
NYTX: Louise 4 minutes    David two minutes and 53 seconds

The morning walk was pleasant as the sun slid under the cloud deck for a while.

Toronto Sun: Ontario PC leader Doug Ford has announced his party will bring “buck-a-beer” back to Ontario. He says it will respect consumers and promote price competition with the minimum price floor sale of beer in the province to \$1 plus deposit per bottle. “For too long beer consumers have been forced to pay inflated prices for beer in order to increase the profits of big corporations. We’re going to allow price competition for beer and this will save consumers money,” Ford said Saturday in a statement.

We had a breakfast of fresh waffles cooked on a Kroger-brought Cuisinart waffle iron, and adorned with maple syrup and fresh fruit.

Then David went down into his basement workshop and started a major cleanup. After about an hour he had to quit – too much trauma. In the meantime, Louise was spraying the drawings for a downy woodpecker and a pileated woodpecker on 11x 14 canvases, which had to be taken outside to “gas off”.

David is reading “Longitude” by Dava Sobel, which recounted the development of the maritime chronometer by Englishman John Harrison. His chronometer made it possible to calculate longitude – how many people even know his name?

Louise was reading “Freethinkers” by Susan Jacoby. Once again nonfiction seems to hold our interest.

For lunch we Knorr onion soup with a toasted bun with a slices of cheese and tomato.

After lunch we went looking for basil and mozzarella cheese for a chicken recipe Louise had found. We went to “Coppa's” grocery store and found the parking lot full due to a small event. So, we moved on to “No Frills” and got the required ingredients, including a small pot of live basil. When we got home the Web told us rabbits love basil – so planting it in Louise's Corner was not an option because Peter Rabbit is often there when we open the door for the Dawn Patrol.

We drove east over the Rouge River and dropped south into the Rougemont area. We wandered through the streets looking at houses that ranged from mansions to post-war bungalows. We came out at “Bruno's” and stopped in to buy a tourtière pie. We spotted breaded veal cutlets in the refrigerator so we bought them as a rare delicacy. We cooked them tonight in lieu of the tourtière .

BBC: The G7 summit has ended in acrimony, with US President Donald Trump lashing out at host Canada and retracting his endorsement of the joint statement. He accused Canadian Prime Minister

Justin Trudeau of acting "meek and mild" during meetings, only to attack the US at a news conference. The summit was dominated by disagreements, notably over trade. Mr Trudeau described as "insulting" Mr Trump's decision to invoke national security to justify tariffs.

On Netflix Louise watched two parts of "The Staircase". It chronicles the years of legal travails that followed the death of the telecom executive Kathleen Peterson, who met her end in late 2001 at the bottom of a set of stairs in her well-appointed home in Durham, N.C. Her novelist husband, Michael Peterson, was charged with her murder.

### **Sunday June 10th 2018**

Weather: Toronto 62F to 70F part cloud Louisville 69F to 88F cloud & T-storms  
NYTX: Louise one minute 29 seconds David two minutes 37 seconds

CBC: In the hours after Donald Trump launched a personal Twitter attack on Justin Trudeau from Air Force One, Canadian officials were at a loss to explain the U.S. president's anger over statements Trudeau made during his press conference to close the G7 summit. Nothing Trudeau said in his news conference was new. The prime minister's office later made that point in a statement, adding that Trudeau had made those comments privately to Trump as well. Trudeau had received polite applause from cabinet ministers and Canadian political staffers when he announced Saturday that the G7 countries had finalized a joint communiqué. After a tough week and a challenging summit it was a victory for Trudeau that the leaders had managed to find consensus language on the difficult issue of trade. The fragile consensus lasted about two hours before it was nuked by a tweet as Trump made his way to Singapore for the North Korea nuclear summit.

The morning walk was very pleasant. Sun with a cool breeze made it feel a bit like early autumn. The day continued cool and fair. Peonies are now in full bloom and irises are fading. The blooming season is summer, but the weather is very early spring or fall. Strange.

It being laundry day, there was some heavy duty work. David went down into the basement to continue his cleanup. There was some good news – he was running out of things to give or throw away.

BBC: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has arrived in Singapore for a scheduled summit with US President Donald Trump. The meeting - the first between a leader from North Korea and a sitting US president - will take place on Tuesday.

We read an article on NAFTA that contained one explosive idea if NAFTA talks fail:

“There would be a pitchfork revolution in the Midwest when the farmers realized what would happen to their markets”.

BBC: Justify has become the 13th horse to complete US Flat racing's Triple Crown with victory in the Belmont Stakes. The Bob Baffert-trained horse followed his Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes wins in New York on Saturday.

While Louise had already started on two other sketches for oil painting, she pursued the idea of painting a nuthatch. We see these birds all the time going nose first down the pine tree on the back

lawn.