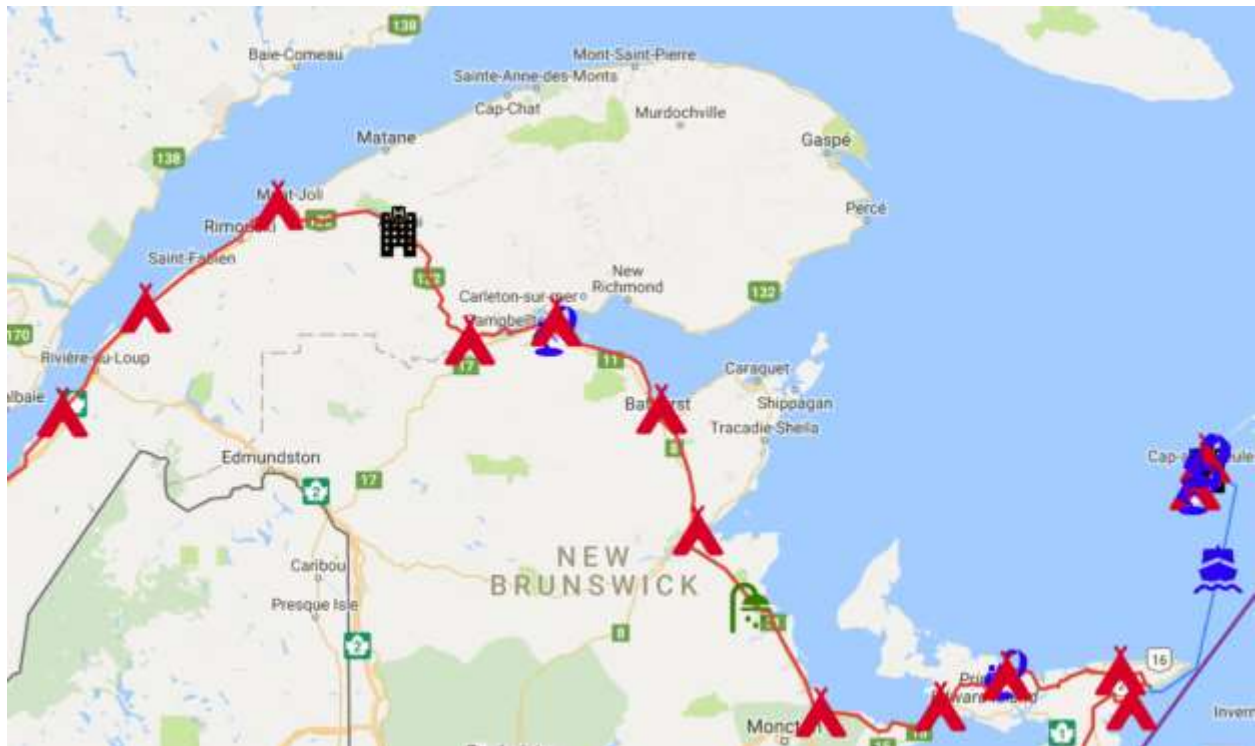


Season 2 – Part 3. New Brunswick into Quebec.



Mo 14.9.2015, day 64. New Brunswick here we come!

As usual when roughing it, we got up very early, packed up and went straight to Tim's, just when it started to pour with rain. Thank God for Tim Hortons!

We then went down to the shuttle bus stop. A very nice lady arrived more or less on time with a pick-up. We loaded everything on her truck and off we went. The bridge is 12 km long and was completed in 1989 and is quite impressive. At the other side she loaded us off at the tourist information. We got some maps and headed off towards Shediac in beautiful sunshine. We took the scenic coastal road and somehow forgot to have lunch. We arrived in Shediac tired and exhausted. Shediac is extremely touristy but at this time of the year quite empty. We had a chat with the lady at information and decided to go to the camping that was closest to town. I was not really in a good mood today, probably due to a mixture of too little sleep the night before (those flags did keep me awake quite some time!) and lack of food. The cherry on the cake was when we started to cook spaghetti and I realized that the stove was broken. This could be very bad news as we have no spare cooker!







Tu 15.9.2015, day 65. A luxurious warm shower

We got up relatively early, not quite as early as we wanted to, and went to Tim's for bagels and coffee. We might start doing this regularly, as it is not a bad way to start the day, we can then have the Müsli as a late breakfast and this might even keep us going right up to early evening. This way we don't have to cook 2x per day. We went to a hardware store to see if they have gas canisters for the spare gas cooker I bought in Iceland, but here in North America they have a different standard. So there is still no solution to our cooker problem. During a quick "Diet Coke Break" we got talking to a very interesting English chap, we exchanged addresses. Maybe he can fix us some overnight stays?

Today was Siria's "day" and she had secretly organized a Warm Shower in St. Louis de Kent, just outside the Kouchibouguac National Park. After biking about 80 km, some of the time on the Trans Canadian Highway, which is not such a nice experience, we arrived in St. Louis. We decided to head down to the village to look at the biggest Acadian flag in the world and to buy a bottle of wine for our hosts.

St. Louis is a small village and someone called our hosts Charles and Marthe, when they saw us in the village, thinking we must have taken a wrong turn. There are no secrets in small towns! So Charles came looking for us and found us. He then drove home and biked out to meet us. Chicken and Potatoes were already simmering in the oven and cookies just being made when we arrived. We were pampered and spoilt all evening with beer, wine, food, cookies and of course shower and warm bed.





We 16.9.2015, day 66. Some more pampering with lobster breakfast and a pick-nick in the park

The next morning our Warm Shower experience got even better as Charles cooked us a fantastic lobster omelet. After a quick tour through his “man cave” with an impressive collection of “toys” including some very nice bicycles, they loaded our bikes on their truck, packed a sandwich pick-nick and took us for a tour through “their” national park. What incredible generosity and what a wonderful couple!

They left us off on the Trans Canadian Highway and we made our way towards Miramichi. We stopped at a Tim Horton’s (where else?) to plan our night’s stay. We got talking to some Canadian navy veterans who had been stationed in Lahr and knew the Basel Zoo (this is the second time we met someone who was stationed in Lahr and went to Basel Zoo!) and they even invited us for coffee!

We ended up spending the night in a nice little campsite just outside Miramichi that was run by 3 elderly ladies that I think had a lot of fun with us! Dinner was excellent with whole grain rice, zuchetti, onions and sour cream. We downed a full pot. Good thing we are now doing quite a bit of biking to burn the calories.















Th 17.9.2015, day 67. To Bathurst and beyond

After getting up far too late, spending a lot of time chatting to the ladies who invited us for coffee and having a delicious Müsli we finally set off. We hadn't gone too far when we were stopped by a guy on his lawnmower for another chat. We headed off again up the little side road we were using in order to avoid the highway and were stopped yet again by a friendly local who warned us that the road would turn into a gravel road. He even gave us his number, telling us to give him a call if we ran into trouble. The road finally was excellent and we had a wonderful ride through the forest that was starting to show first autumn colours. Just after we joined the high way a car stopped ahead of us and two familiar people got out. It was Charles and Marthe, who had found Siria's charging cable and gave it back. They also gave us an ice cold Pepsi. Those two are really unbelievable!

We stopped in Allardville and had a pizza and again just outside Bathurst in Tim Horten's (of course!) to see where we could spend the night. Siria found a nice spot close to the Bathurst Marina so we headed there. The day had been very hot, close to 30°C and we were quite sticky and exhausted when we arrived. Everything seemed closed, but the people in one of the two only caravans parked on the camping turned out to be taking care of checking people in if no-one was in the office. As the pizza was still lying heavily in our stomachs we decided to skip dinner and had some crackers and granola bars instead while sitting under the stars writing up our diary.



Fr 18.9.2015 day 68. Youghall Beach to Dalhousie

After biking along the coast road where all the rich people of Bathurst seem to live we soon got back onto the Trans Canadian. Progress was fast and easy with the wind in the right direction and nice sunshine. Just out of Dalhousie there was a nice long beach and the wind seemed just about strong enough for some kite-surfing. So we stopped at the beach front park, that was closed for the season and I got all the kit rigged up. Unfortunately there was not quite enough wind to really have fun. Nevertheless it certainly generated a lot of interest! One lady said she'd been coming to this beach for years and had never seen anything like it. And soon one guy came running up saying he is a kite surfer as well. They were amazed that we were actually biking with kite equipment.

But as said the fun was soon over as there was not really enough wind. We biked further along the beach, over the bridge and up the hill to Dalhousie that –according to the New Brunswick tourist guide– is supposed to be one of the nicest towns in Eastern Canada. The camping was actually quite nice, directly on the seaside with some small islands just off shore, but apart from that there was nothing at all and the few restaurants and shops close to the camping were all closed.

I went for a quick 5km run to try and keep my muscles used to running and also to check if there was really so little to Dalhousie. There was, so it ended up quite an early night...



Sa 19.9.2015, day 69. Dalhousie to Matapedia

We got up relatively early and headed off before 9AM. It was very foggy and starting to feel very much like autumn. There was a bit of a misunderstanding as I thought we would bike the 25km to Campbelton

before having breakfast, but Siria said she wouldn't make it, so we ended up in the Tim Horton's (again!) in Dalhousie. After coffee and bagels we headed off and got as far as Campbellton. There we did the laundry in a Super8 Motel, had lunch and went to McDonalds for dessert. Then finally we headed off over the bridge and into Quebec. Progress was very slow. We had head wind, very warm temperatures and Siria was not feeling very energetic. So we stopped quite soon in Matapedia, a very very quiet little town down by the river. This turned out to be the perfect decision as there was a nice beach where we enjoyed the last of the day's sun and had a wonderful swim in the river. Also there was a park with numbered plots that looked like a camping and was probably for people coming down the river by canoe. There was also a toilette and shower. As always when spending the night in unofficial spots Siria was a bit nervous, but luckily this didn't stop her from falling asleep seconds after her head hit the pillow.









Su 20.9.2015, day 70. Up the Matapedia valley to Amqui.

From the weather forecast we knew that we would have a tough day ahead of us with some rain and a head wind. Also it would be up hill all day. When we got up the sky was already quite grey. We made breakfast under a pagoda and right when Siria was having her shower the first rain squalls hit us. So we sat there wondering what to do. Should we just sit and wait in the showers where it was warm and dry? I went over to a bed and breakfast and found that they also had a small restaurant that was open. So finally we went there and had a second breakfast. The weather improved and soon we were off. But as expected progress was slow due to head wind. We reached Amqui just before sun set. Siria had written to a guy on WarmShowers who worked at a Microbrewery. We had not heard back from him, so we didn't have a confirmed place to stay. Nevertheless, after some shopping, we went to the Microbrewery, just to see if we would get lucky. The beer was delicious, but the only news we got was that the camping down the road that was our plan B for spending the night was closed.

So finally, as it was quite cold and already getting dark, we decided to lash out and spend the night in a motel. It was absolutely luxurious, with free whirlpool and swimming pool. We ended up having McDonalds in bed while watching TV.



