

Nate and Logan are Married!



# Nate and Logan's Wedding Day



On September 28, 2024, right around 5:00 PM, family and friends of Nate and Logan gathered at the Tower Beach Club in their “Beachy Formal Cocktail attire” to witness what could only be called a fabulous wedding. The ceremony was held on the grass lawn with mission bay as the backdrop to the event.





With Logan being a professional event planner, one could only expect everything to be perfect. Nate and the groomsmen showed up early to get things going while the bride and her entourage took a boat from the hotel to the wedding site. Once all the guests were in place the wedding procession began and even little Maisie was part of the parade as Blake pulled her along in a little wagon.



After the exchanging of vows and rings the happily married couple paraded down the aisle surrounded by hundreds of soap bubbles blown by the guests. They were followed by the rest of the wedding party and soon it was time for pictures while the guest made there way over to the reception area to enjoy their favorite beverages along with some delicious hors d'oeuvres.



Soon it was time for the wedding party to make their grand entrance much to the delight of everyone. Once all the introductions were made it was time for dinner and everyone found their seats, which wasn't hard because there was a wooden nameplate for each of the guests. The food was perfect and just the right selection for the evening's festivities.







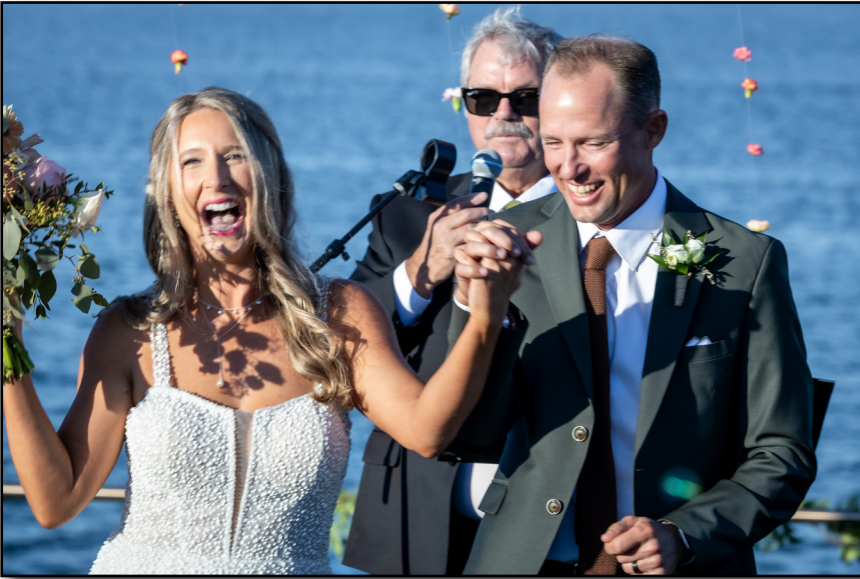
Then there were the toasts and speeches followed by the “first dance” of the newlywed couple. All of the speakers did a great job, and we all learned a little more about both Nate and Logan. Although the night breeze was a bit chilly, the couple thoughtfully provided sarape type throws for all the guests just to make sure everyone was comfortable.

One would think this is the end of the event but not a chance. Next everyone moved to the room next door to be entertained by a live band and a mirrored dance floor. There was lots of dancing and good fun the whole night. And just to be sure you kept up your energy for more dancing hamburgers and fries were being grilled just outside in case you got the late-night munchies.



There was a photobooth with plenty of costume “enhancers” for those who wanted to show off their fun side. All in all, it was one of the best weddings ever held for the Riel family and we are all so happy to have Logan and her family be part of our clan. Thank you, Nate and Logan, for the great party!





***The following is from Nate and Logan's wedding website:***

We like to say we may have met back in our early 20s when Nate was bartending at Quiggs and Logan was living in San Diego for the summer working right downstairs at Tower Two.... He probably poured her a shot after her shift and gave her that cute smile :)

But realistically, we met on Match! And we still thank Nate's cousin Shannon for taking such fun pics of him that he used on his profile which started up a conversation that led to all of this! Our first date was at Fanuel Park at the end of a typical Beach Day for both of us but separately. We had been hanging out at the beach in PB just a few blocks from one another, probably for many weekends!!







We immediately seemed to match and went on lots of beach dates as well as dates, riding our bikes to dinner and just had the best time hanging out getting to know each other and each other's friends and family.

When the time came to move in together, the hardest part was Nate having to let go of his putting green in the second bedroom.

We both knew we wanted to jump start having a family since we're over 40 years young, so next up... along came Maisie, the absolute cutest baby you've ever seen! Now we have the three of us and you can still find us at the beach most weekends, trying to keep the baby under the umbrella and getting excited to teach her volleyball as soon as she's bigger than the ball!



# ARO TURNS THREE

By Brett Sorem

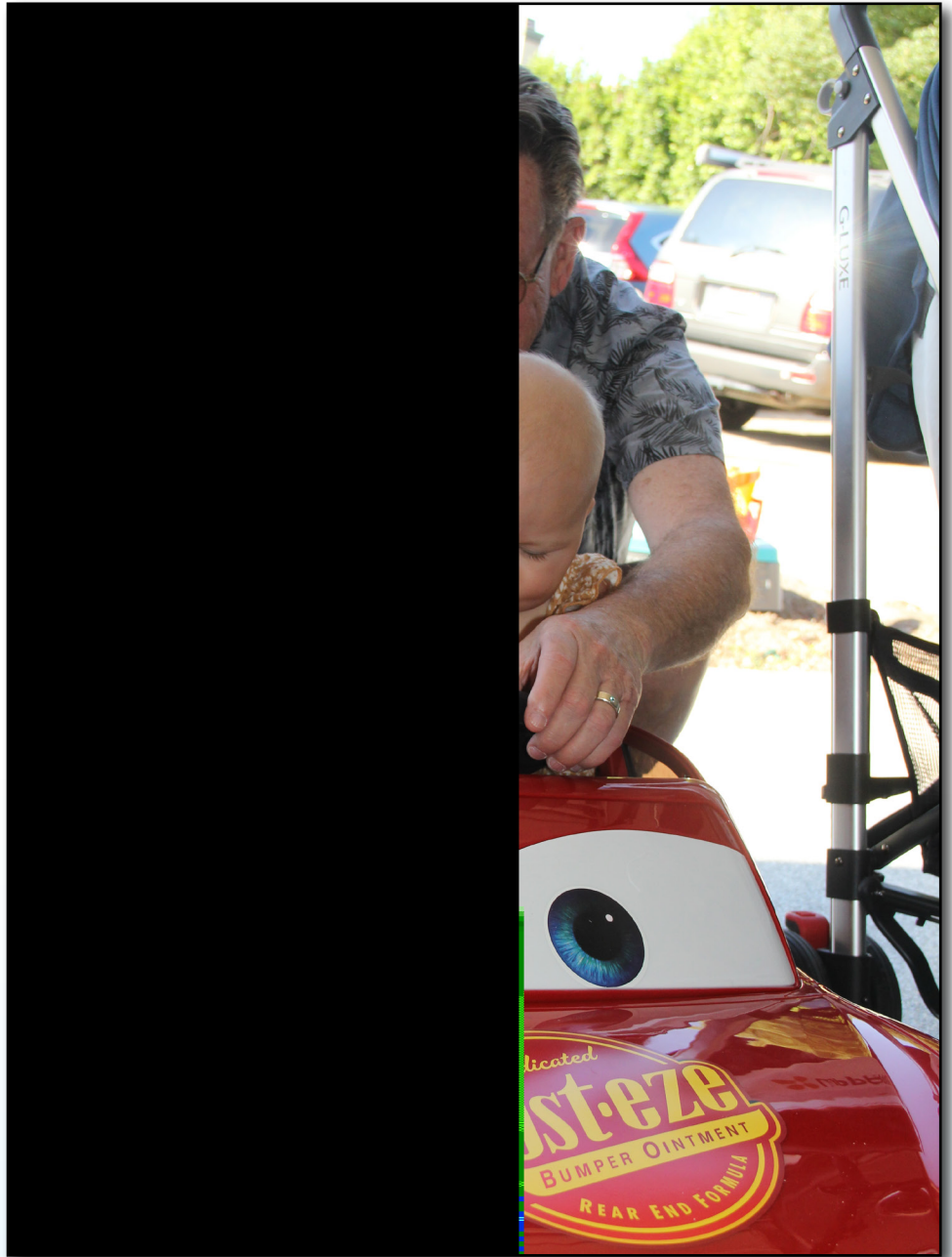


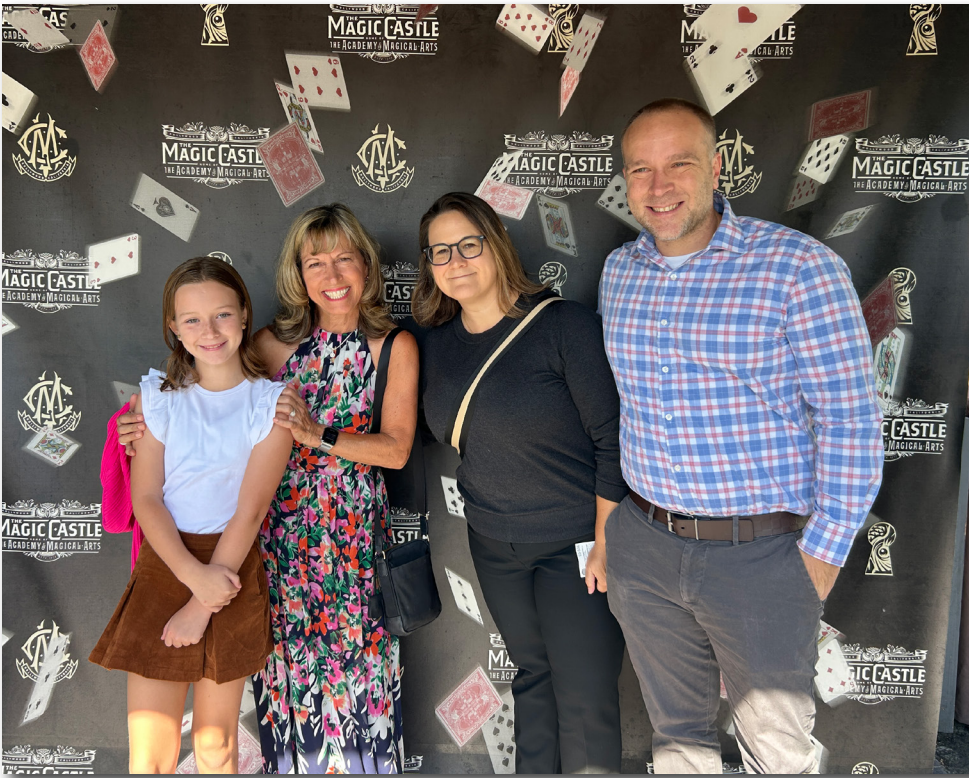
Aro turned 3 on October 3rd. It seems like only last year we were in Menifee, and he turned 1. How did two years go by so fast? Saturday the 5th we held a party for Aro at our new home in Santa Clarita. Shocker, the west coast Sorem's moved again. Carinda's Grandma G'G and Aunt Cynthia win the award for the longest commute coming from Washington State. Lyle and Birdy won the award for Aro's favorite present... his first race car: Lightning McQueen.



We had old friends and new ones attend. It was a scotcher up in the hills, topping 105 on the day, but that didn't stop the kids from stripping down into their bday suits and jumping in the blowup pool. Big Al and Keven went to pick up pizza and cupcakes, and for those who stuck around long enough were treated with some Brisket.

Aro had such a great time that he managed to go down for a nap a half hour early and gave mom and dad a much-needed break. Thanks to everyone who came or wanted to come but couldn't. We are not an easy commute away from SD so we understand. Aro said all he wants for his birthday is a ticket to the World Series so hopefully by the time this comes out there is still Padres Postseason Baseball! LFGSD!!!





# The Magic Castle

By Birdy Hartman Hall



On August 10, Curtis, Lauren, and Cora Hartman invited us to enjoy the Magic Castle with them. First of all, I had to ask, what is the Magic Castle? The Magic Castle is a performance venue, restaurant, and clubhouse for the Academy of Magical Arts for magicians and magic enthusiasts in the Hollywood district of Los Angeles, California. The Academy was started in 1952 by William Larsen Sr., who founded Genii magazine in 1936.

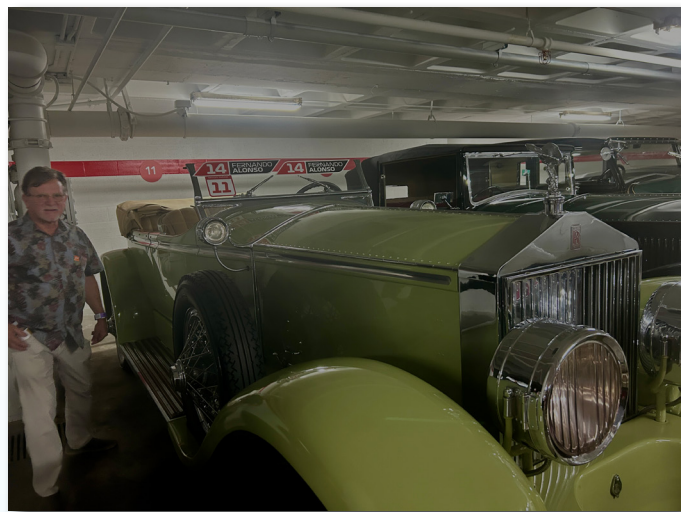


You must be a member or have a guest card from a member to gain admittance. Luckily for us, Lauren has a friend who has a membership and invited us as her guest. Wow! That sounded cool. So, we dressed up in our Sunday best (the castle has a strict dress code that we had to adhere to for entrance) and enjoyed a lovely brunch breakfast. Then we set off into the castle to witness magical shows and wonders.

As we waited for our breakfast table we were entertained by a lively ghost, named Irma, that magically played the player piano. Now we have all seen a player piano, but this one truly impressed us. You just walk up to Irma, request a song, and instantly she is playing it. From show tunes to current pop stars, she nailed it! I sure wish I could take her home for some party fun, but she seemed content in her ghostly castle parlor. There were magic shows for us to attend and magicians sitting in chairs just waiting to impress us with their mysterious tricks. It was a morning of constant oohs and awes. We had a great time, and we thanked the kids for inviting us along.



However, that was not the end of our day in Los Angeles with Curtis, Lauren and Cora. Next on our tour was a stop at The Petersen Automotive Museum on Wilshire Boulevard. This museum houses one of the world's largest collections of vehicles of every kind. And if that doesn't sound cool, then hold on to your race car hats because we also got to visit THE VAULT which has 250+ of the rarest vehicles ever assembled!





No kidding friends and family! We saw the most iconic and rare cars, motorcycles and trucks spanning over 120 years of automotive history. We saw turn-of-the-twentieth-century cars, head-of-state vehicles, American classics, the personal rides of Hollywood legends, award-winning hot rods, cars that pushed the boundaries of innovation, and many other surprises. Yes, we got to see a few Batmobiles, the van from Scooby Doo, 1966 Volkswagen Beetle "Herbie", 1981 DeLorean DMC-12 "Time machine" from Back to the Future, Kit and many other famous cars. And don't get me started on the artwork that we saw in the Lowrider exhibit.

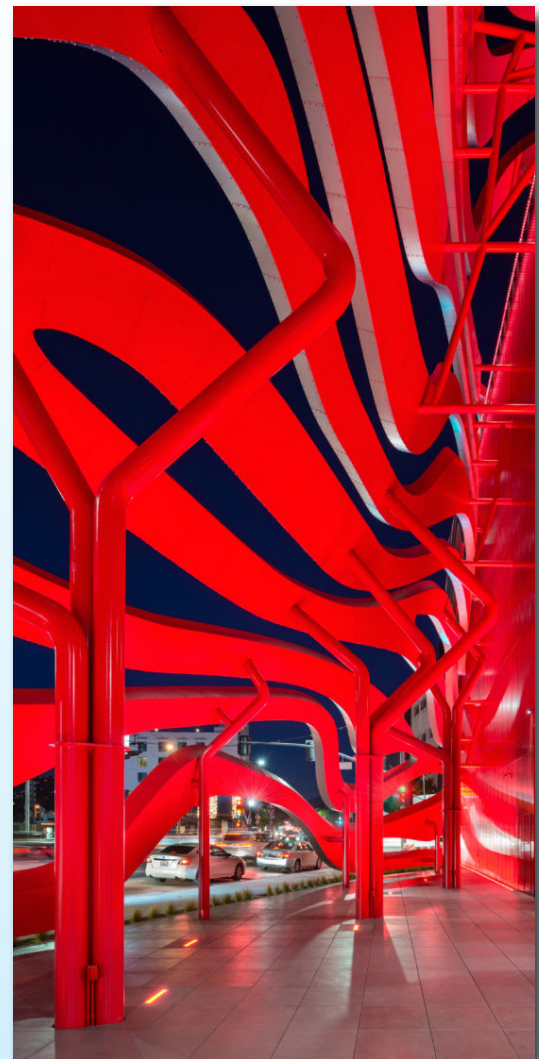
These masterpieces were so detailed with artwork and razzle dazzle that even Leonardo Da Vinci would have been impressed! Truly, I am not a car gal, but it was fun walking through the exhibits and seeing all types of vehicles new and old.



Of the many that we saw, only one caught my nostalgic eye. In the 70s, my mom bought her first sporty car that she just loved. It was Plymouth, Barracuda in green. She absolutely loved this car, and we had fun packing it filled with our friends. Back then, there were no seatbelt laws. You could put as many passengers in a car as you could fit. The car was made for 5 but the trunk was made of glass, and we often would sit back there watching the cars behind us roll up to the stop signs.



I am certain that there were beach trips where my mom hauled as many as 10 friends. We would sit on laps and compress ourselves as small as we could to ensure that everyone got in. It is crazy to think about that now but at the time, it was not an uncommon thing to do. So, when I saw a bright orange one on display at the Peterson Museum, I felt joy! Check it out friends! Your grandma Ya Ya had a sporty side that you would have all loved to ride in! Beep, Beep! That's my story and I am sticking to it.





# GILLINGHAM'S HIKING TREK IN CANADA!

By: Listy Gillingham

When trying to figure out our next hiking adventure with Kym and Doug Farkas, we started to discuss eastern Canada. We looked at a map and set our sights on seeing Niagara Falls mostly because in our discussion we realized both sets of parents (Mom and Dad and Doug's Mom and Dad), chose Niagara Falls as their honeymoon spot. So, we picked a small community in Collingwood, Canada as a good spot for seeing Eastern Canada and the Blue Mountain region. From there, we started to look at self-guided hiking and that steered us to the furthest east you can go in Canada, Newfoundland! We found an 8-day hike that seemed to check all the boxes and began our planning from there.



On August 28, we flew directly to St. John's, Newfoundland and spent a few days in this city (the capital of Newfoundland) to get a good feel for the people and the area. St. John's is a beautiful city that sits on coastline of the Labrador Sea. It began as a fishing village and had a thriving population of about 500,000 people. However, in the 1990's the government shut down all cod fisheries because they were worried that these fish would go extinct in their area.



This created a lot of unemployment and a need to build up their tourist industry, which included creating the East Coast Hiking trail which was our destination. 94% of the province's population lives in St. John's which means all the communities that we would be traveling to were very small and in less populated areas.

St. John's has a diverse population but the predominant heritage for the area was from Ireland which was noticeable due to their heavy accents and lots of Irish night life. The Downtown area is filled with shops, restaurants, and pubs with live music everywhere. We loved walking around and talking to the people who were all very friendly. The Jellybean rowhouses (which is what St. John's is known for) were hard to miss as they were found all over the city. These colorful houses are painted in distinctly bright and fun colors and add a lot of character to each neighborhood.

We learned that if you live in St. John's, you are considered a "townie" and anyone from Newfoundland is known as a "Newfie." They also have fun customs that they like to talk about. One event they talked about were "kitchen parties" where neighbors invite you to their house to eat and drink in the kitchen which likely led to dance parties. Another custom occurs around the Christmas holidays where "mum-





mers” appear for the ten days before Christmas. A mummer is someone who dresses up with a pillowcase over their head with eyes cut out (looking like a mummy). From there, they might put on wigs or hats to give their mummer a little character. If a mummer appears at your door, you’re expected to invite them in for a drink and some nosh and if you figure out who they are, the mummer removes their mask, but if you don’t, they leave you wondering if you ever knew them.

Our hike began in St. John and was called the Quidi Vidi Loop (pronounced Kiddy Viddy). This 8-mile hike was probably the easiest of the hikes we did, however it did include lots of climbing (2,000 feet) in elevation. Regardless, we learned it was easier because we could actually see the trail (no overgrown trails) and it wasn’t filled with rocks and roots which made all the other hikes we did much more technical and treacherous at times. We walked around a small pond and wandered around the coastline for some beautiful views from up high. We stopped at the Quidi Vidi Brewery that served Iceberg beer made with pure water from 20,000-year-old icebergs. We all loved it and made a point to buy more of it when we were visiting other villages. We crossed over the National Historic Site of Signal Hill and the Battery of St. John’s Harbour.





Day 2 took us up Shoe Cove to Flat-rock. We saw some beautiful coastal views and lookouts as we scrambled up and down the coastline. We crossed wooded planks and found many hidden single-track trails due to the overgrowth. We lost our way for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and had to backtrack. After that, we were more careful on watching our trail map app that should have alerted us when we were going the wrong way.



We stayed at a cozy Bed and Breakfast that included making all our meals. The husband and team were interesting as one of them came from Spain and the other England. He was a Michelin chef in Spain and created a fancy 6-course meal for us that night that included cod tongue and liver pate.

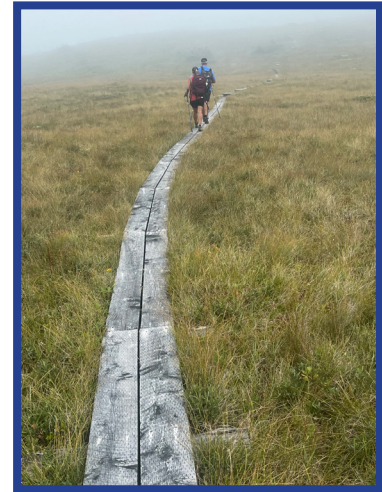
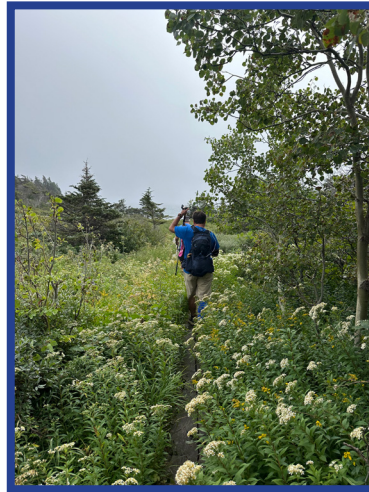


Day 3 was Petty Harbour to Cape Spear (which is the most easterly point of the Canadian continent. Petty Harbour was a small fishing village with some cute houses around it and a market where we bought some Gatorade.

One house had a mini library, but it was filled with walking goodies (snacks, band aids, books, sunscreen, a can of beans, a game, and other essential items. The note inside invited hikers to take anything and respond with a note of thanks in terms of what made them happy during their hiking adventure. The author lost a friend and created this box in their memory for always bringing happiness to her. It was quite touching.

The rest of the walk included board-walked bog crossings, a variety of terrains, two river crossings and an expansive view of the deep swells rolling in across the Atlantic Ocean. The river crossings were not always easy and sometimes I'd need Bob's hand to help guide me across, but we made it. This was a misty day, which made the rocks we were scaling (yep, hands on rocks, climbing up a riverbed), a little tricky. The fog made it hard to appreciate the views from Cape Spear, but we were happy to see a snack bar where

Doug and Bob got coffee and Listy and Kym had a frosty!





Day 4 took us from Witless Bay to the Cribbies which is the most photographed meadow in Newfoundland. This ten-mile hike was technically challenging (roots, rocks, branches, and rain) which made the travel slower. This was our only rainy-day hike, which we felt very lucky to manage, but it ended with a little surprise.

Doug was in the lead and stepped on a wasp hive disturbing the bees. Listy was close behind and was lucky to make it through without noticing the angry pest. Kym and Bob weren't so lucky. They came up after the wasps began to swarm and decided to attack Kym and Bob. Kym got about 7 stings, but Bob (according to Kym's account) had his legs covered with bees who had no problem stinging him over 20 times. Luckily, some Newfie hikers came upon us and gave Bob two Benadryl tablets as they could see his hand was already beginning to swell and they shared an account of ending up in the hospital due to a similar situation (which is why they carry Benadryl when they hike). Bob graciously accepted and we were sure glad he did it because his hand ballooned quite large from the stings given when trying to shoo the bees away.





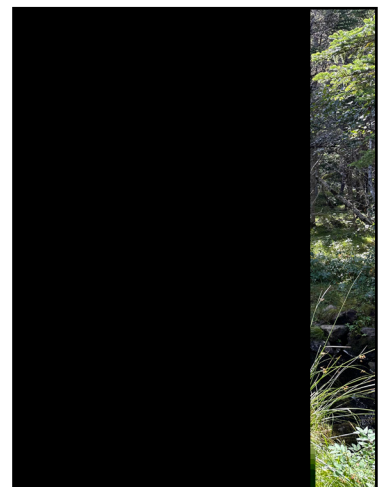
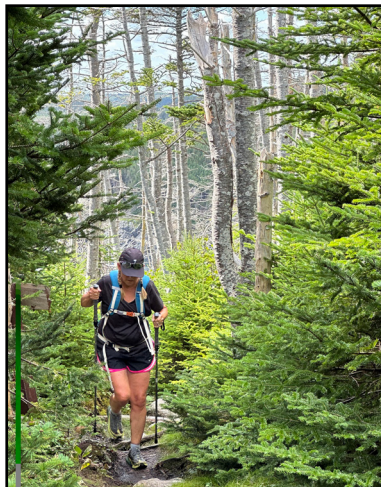
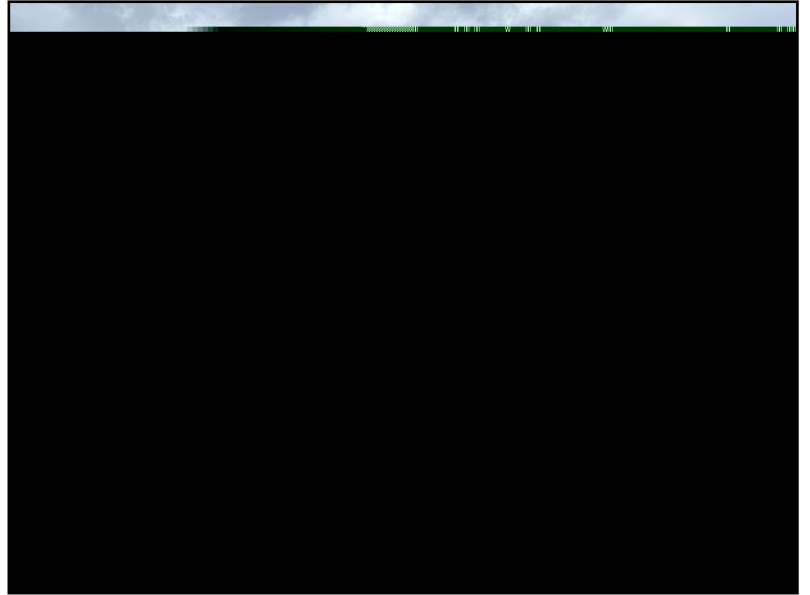
The next accommodation was interesting and was listed as a “lovely accommodation in Port Kirwan with home cooked meals and delightful Island hospitality.” What we learned about Port Kirwan is it has a population of 49 people, and the hotel/bed and breakfast is the only place of its kind in the region. They were spot on with the hospitality but everything else was a reach, however it turned out to be one of our favorite stops.

When we arrived, we were given a tour of the place which included a large 200 square-foot shed where our homemade meals could be made by us (smile) for breakfast and lunch. They had everything a hiker could want to eat or carry with them, and everything was for the taking. Dinners were homemade and served in the main house, which also turned out to be quite the presentation of a variety of foods.

Our accommodations were two motor homes converted into bedrooms with bathrooms. We got a queen size bed in ours and Kym and Doug got two twin beds in theirs. They also had two huts for hanging wet clothes and shoe dryers for boots that got wet from a day of hiking. The best part was the huge deck that had a fire pit and Adirondack chairs that faced the southern shore of the Avalon Peninsula. It turned out to be a great place to read a book or sip a glass of wine after a long day of hiking.



Day 5 was the Spurwink Island Path which took us to the iconic Berry Arch which gave us a view that was stunning on many levels. It was the only out and back hiking loop we did which was treacherous with river crossings, roots, covered trails, and slippery mud, but we managed to get there in one piece, and we certainly weren't disappointed. The view of the arch was rewarding and a great place for us to have lunch and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

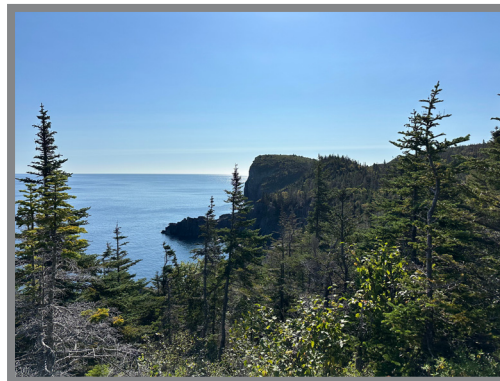




Day 6 took us ten miles and we went from La Manche to Brigus South. We got to see the beautiful swaying La Manche suspension bridge which was spectacular



by size and structure. After that stop the trail took us to a long-abandoned fishing village and south along the Flamber Head Path. The trail rolled over wooded hills, headlands, and cliff-faced coastal views that were worth the risks as we made our way through the East Coast Trail map.



At lunch, we saw whales off in the distance and our eagle sighting along the way! We also saw a beautiful waterfall

that led to another water crossing (with a bridge this time) to keep us moving. You can see the tight trail with the overgrowth in this picture with the falls. The branches would sometimes whip Bob from above (because you had to look down most of the time) or ricochet and whip me if I was following too closely behind.



Day 7 was the one day we decided to take a down day from the scheduled 6-mile hike by recommendation of the Port Kiwan bed and breakfast hosts. They steered us towards a day at Ferryland which included 6 miles of hiking, but a hike where you could relax and not worry about every step you were taking. Everyone voted for that, and we enjoyed a leisurely stroll up to the lighthouse and had lunch in a lovely little restaurant on the water.





Day 8 was our last hike, and it took us from Bay Path Trailhead back to St. John's. This one was the only hike that the company listed as hard, which made us a little worried as we felt most of the hikes were hard, but thankfully it fell in line with the others. It included some steep inclines both up and down, but nothing that came close in our opinion to the trails that were mostly overgrown and hard to manage, so that was a relief. There was one part that included scaling up rocks which made us very grateful to have a dry hiking day. It was fun to see the Jellybean row houses from a distance as we neared St. John's.

We returned to the hotel we started with and enjoyed a night out on the town before continuing with the second leg of trip (which I'll save for next month, so Robert has an article from me). Special thanks to Kym and Doug for being willing to go on these crazy adventures!