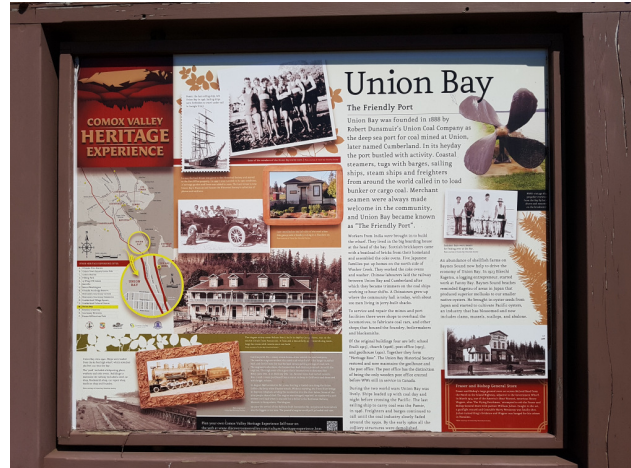


Tuesday May 15

This waiting around for medical appointments is a little tiring.

We decided to head north for a few days and explore Strathcona Provincial Park just west of Campbell River. Of course getting there is half the fun, so up the old coast highway (now Hwy 19A) we went.

About morning coffee time, we arrived at Union Bay, pulled into the parking area, and made coffee. Last fall, we met Howard and Jean who live in Union Bay. They told us that camping by the boat launch was allowed and it's free too!



After coffee, I suggested to Jen that we should drive into Courtenay, do the couple of things we needed to do (an oil change for Alfie for one), and come back to Union Bay and overnight. And we did just that.

I thoroughly enjoyed just relaxing by the rig watching the tide come in. Oh and the other really great thing about this overnight stop? We had strong Shaw wifi. Sunshine, free camping, and connectivity – what else do we need?!

Sometime later, I noticed a small car and trailer backing down the ramp and onto the sea bottom. I couldn't tell immediately what was on the trailer – lots of coloured "boat" shapes for sure. Turns out there were two trimarans, complete with sails. The couple assembled both craft, then paddled out to the edge of the break-water, mucked around for a short time, then came back into shore. After disassembling the two boats, they put them back on the trailer and left. Seemed like a lot of work for such a short time on the water. We figured it must have been a shake-down paddle. Who knows?



After tea, we strolled along to the breakwater. We found this old propeller. It was discovered by some divers. Unfortunately, there was no indication as to what ship it was off or when it was found.

We crossed the highway to look at the Union Bay Post Office and the Provincial Gaol.



To the left of the post office building is the Union Bay Community Church. Behind the church is a lovely memorial garden.



We sauntered down the highway to the "corner" store and look what we found in the cooler! I emailed this picture to our young Czech friends, Jarda & Petra. Small world!

Turning around we headed back to Ali for dinner: grilled cheese for Jen and grilled ham and cheese for me. After dinner, Jen suggested we go across to the Saloon for a brew (Dark Matter) and some dessert: Blueberry Rum Cheesecake.



Back in Ali, we turned out the lights early. See you in the a.m.

