# Saturday April 21

This morning we headed south to Sidney, BC on the Saanich Peninsula. Jen's post-polio group is winding down its operation and tomorrow is their final get-together. I'd reserved a site at Oceanside RV Park where we've stayed twice before. We've been in site #1 three times now.



After we set up the rig, we drove into Sidney for a walk. Sidney is a lovely little town.

### Sunday April 22

Sunday morning we walked around the rv park together. I noticed this unique RV setup. It's a truck camper on a flatbed trailer with storage under the camper. The tow vehicle was a Ford 350 dually. Pretty slick!



I sent RV friend Garnett in Ontario this picture. He said he had considered doing something similar before he bought his cargo trailer. His main "beef" was the actual floor space of the camper—it is designed to fit in the narrow confines of a pickup's bed. Even still, this setup ticks a lot of boxes.

The PPASS "wake" was a 15 minute drive away. We arrived just as the festivities were beginning. It was really great to see many of the old gang.

A couple of hours later we said our goodbyes and drove back to Oceanside.

While Jen had her afternoon rest, I strolled down to the beach. Pretty.



#### **Monday April 23**

Nothing much to report today—we did some shopping in the "big city".

#### **Tuesday April 24**

The highlight today was meeting our Conquerall Bank neighbour Ellie who is visiting her son in Esquimalt, a western suburb of Victoria. Unfortunately I didn't take any pictures. It sure was great to see Ellie again and catch up on the news of Shore Drive. Hard to believe it's been almost 4 years since we returned home to BC.

#### Wednesday April 25

Well, our short visit to Victoria is coming to an end. Time to pack up and hit the road. Although we were on the Saanich peninsula, we decided not to take the ferry from Brentwood to Mill Bay; just too much hassle trying to arrange things around a BC Ferry schedule.

So we drove over the Malahat again. There is still a lot of work happening—more widening of the highway—as this is the only route to and from Victoria.

The weather definitely co-operated. We stopped at the first of the two lookouts for coffee.



The view out Ali's front door ->

## Salish Bear Pole

Cost Salish carver Stan Modeste carved this pole for the 1966 centenary project, Route of the Totems, which marked the joining of the colonies of Vancouver.Island with mainland British Columbia. [The pole's] greatest significance is historic: it indicates a genre of the period and is a rare surviving work of a carver who made a meaningful contribution to Cost Salish art (Peter L. Macnair, Route of the Totems Report, 1999).

Thunderbird and Bear were significant figures to Stan. At the top is Thunderbird and at the bottom, Grizzly Bear, holding a mask. The Sawaiwe mask is the only ceremonial mask used by the Coast Salish people; San's family belongs to a prestigious group that is entitled to show the Sawaiwe mask.

Salish Bear Pole has undergone a number of refurbishments; in 2015 the pole was restored to its original design and colouring. The conservation work was commissioned by the City of Duncan to coincide with the work that the Ministry of Transportation was undertaking on the Malahat Drive (highway).

Stan's family are happy that the pole has been restored. When Judy first told me I got quite excited about it. I was worried about how it was deteriorating (Sybil Modeste and Judy Hill, Interview, Jul 2015).  $\textcircled{\bullet}$ 

At the north end of the Malahat is Bamberton Provincial Park. We did a quick drive through, just in case we want to camp here sometime, and decided it was a nice campground.

As we continued up the Island Hwy, Jen asked if I was interested in driving out to Cow Bay. "Sure", it's been years since we've been to Cowichan Bay.

Zoom in to read about the Salish Bear Pole above.



We drove through town looking for a 38' parking spot—hah! At the far end of town is the boat launch with lots of parking for vehicles and trailers. Here's a shot of the water side of Cow Bay.



We parked the rig and walked the short distance into town and the Cow Bay bakery. Yummmm, coffee and treats.

We walked along the waterfront then back to the rig. Again, I didn't take a picture, but we watched two large Dungeness crabs "fighting" over territory. Boy can those guys boogey!

By early afternoon we were back home. Total mileage: 316 miles.

We're heading to Sooke, BC next week. Please join us.