

6 July '97

Dear Frances,

It is very early in the morning & I can't sleep any more, so it's an excellent time to write to you.

I went with the St. John's Church walking group on their Church Outing on Canada Day (July 1) and it was a marvellous outing. We had a boat which took us (34 of us) to Portland Island, about an hour's run, & we had 4 hours before we had to come back. It was very wet & unhelpful & I was thankful to be well prepared wearing boots & with my retractible walking stick, but on slippery slopes I got very nervous nowadays. It's certainly going to go out with them again, but will try to pick walks where I don't hold them up. This time I got a

conversation with someone - she might have been a primary school inspector - who knows Sheffield & Whittington & Revolution House, & could even visualize Elmwood. The school she visited was, we decided, probably built on what was the land owned by Whittington Hall. The boat brought us back to Sidney, which was then a very elaborate marina. The others went off to a pub supper, but I took off back home, driving with some trepidation as this was my first time on the highway since I can't think when. I was terribly tired when I got back, far too tired to sleep, but it was a wonderful day & the man who ran the boat took us close up to some rocks which were covered with seals which

just blended in perfectly with the colours of the rocks. Maria & I had a day in Victoria looking around the shops in the Eaton's Centre which neither of us had done for ages, & we had lunch at Frisco Jack's (one of the many eating spots there), I had to buy a pair of pants (trousers) as I seem to have lost a lot of weight, & got some useful oatmeal coloured ones (bargain-priced). Ed has recovered well, relatively speaking, from his recent operation, & is now back installed in that very nice, very pricey, care home called Parkwood, and I am so thankful that Maurice didn't linger on & on like that. Now it is time to get up, & I must today take some stuff off to St. John's to store for their next rummage sale. It's so glad you get visits from Gillian.

Love Jane

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