

25 Oct '01

Victoria, B.C.

Dear Frances,

I've been home for five days
now & apologize that only now am

writing to you. My Churchill

Venture was very worth while, including

all the rail travel (which in Canada

is an adventure itself with sleeping

berths & fabulous meals served on

immaculate table cloths with starched

napkins). Nearly all the other

passengers getting this First Class

service were Americans taking this

trip from coast to coast & we just

didn't discuss the events of Sept. 11.

But the Bears were the main

object of the trip & they were

marvellous! We were warned on

arrival that one had put his/her

② paw right through a window (it was only a 9" square window) so we only went outdoors with an armed guard. It wasn't that cold either most of the time, but living arrangements in the Centre were rather like ~~the~~ being back in the WAAT, all very communal, — 4 women to a room, double bunks, + I can't think how many sharing the communal showers + toilets. No radio, no newspapers — but excellent lectures on bears, + Northern subjects. And Ian Stirling (our Second Cousin — once removed) is a VIP at Churchill. He has led all the research + the conservation of bears. Until about 25 years' ago everyone just shot them off for no real reason.

3

We are now getting ready to give
a Gaelic Concert in exactly a month.
I have missed some practices & have
a lot to learn.

So I've come back to a rainy,
cloudy Victoria, & even after 5 days
I'm still waking up thinking I'm
still rocketing about on the tram.

I do hope you have some nice
days & that life isn't all dark
& wintry. Have you had a
visit from Gillian recently?

Very, very much love from

Sarah

Did you get a card from me?