

September 27, 2016
(June Letter)

Dear Samantha,

I'm still in catchup mode so I thought I would look back at June to see what was keeping me busy that month. That was the month I was back and forth to the oncologist to see about my blood, but it was also a month where I got to spend extended time at home. This doesn't seem to happen very much because we are often off visiting someplace or other. Time at home meant time to clean up files and throw stuff out but it also meant time for a bike ride, visits with neighbours, and walking trips to the local coffee shop (with occasional stops at Jolipop).

We also attended a show at the university which was put on by a group of people from a theatre troupe for handicapped people. Most of them were mentally challenged so there were plenty of support people for their performances but the quality of their presentations was very high. I was pleased to see how supportive the associated workers were – and how tolerant they were of people wandering off in the middle of a performance or forgetting some of their lines. We were left with the recognition that the performers were obviously benefitting from the experience and in most cases greatly enjoying themselves.

This contrasted with the performance at the Circle du Soleil that we attended earlier that month (Lucia). We were very impressed with the technical aspects of that show (except for the 45 minutes when part of the scenery broke down). Most impressive was the use of water. They had an apparatus where water poured down in a screen-like fashion from the ceiling then was sucked up by holes in the stage in such a way that there was only a little bit of cleanup to make the stage relatively dry again.

The screen of water was spectacular since they opened and shut off jets to create images and effects of all types in the water. Of course, they also used the setup for a clown act at one point. I hope you will have a chance to see this show at some point – even if you were not able to do so when in Montréal.

The only down side of the show was that they would not let us get into the venue with our water bottle. When we showed up at the location they were searching bags and purses to remove such bottles. I had to pour out the water in the bottle that I had prepared. It was particularly annoying since the price for a bottle of water in the venue was \$5. To make matters worse, the highlighted charity of the Cirque is “One Drop” – a charity that spends money to make water available to poor people and those in dry places. They drill wells and make public infrastructure for water to make it possible. This just made me more angry that they did not allow us to take water in reusable containers and charged a high price for water in plastic containers!

Love,