

Trip Report - Quebec

QUEBEC - A WINTER WONDERLAND OF MEMORIES – by Jan Ferrell

Picture yourself staying in a castle that surpasses the one in Downton Abbey. It actually makes that one look like guest quarters. Add in superb service, a really cool wine and cheese bar (yes, cheese), your friendly Starbucks and you have the Chateau Frontenac. That was our home away from home for the Quebec, Canada Winter Expedition this February.



Our skiers, **Larry Hord, Bil Cusack, Pete Matheau, George Lopez, Tom Gossett, Marda Waters and Frank Yu** had 3 areas in which to ski – Mont Sainte-Anne, Le Massif and Stoneham. While not challenging vertically, they found powder, ice, popcorn snow and just about anything else a mountain can offer. Unfortunately there are no ski pictures, probably due to what one of the skiers said – “Hell, I was just trying to not break a leg!” Because of the rain, customized garbage (body) bags were thoughtfully provided by the ski area. It was a fashion statement.

Skiers and non-skiers met one afternoon at the Ice Hotel. For a mere \$200 a night, you, too, can sleep on a slab of ice with a thin mattress while cocooned in a down sleeping bag. **Frank Yu** had to check the slabs out while his wife, **Sue Ann Chu**, stood nearby shaking her head. If you’ve ever been to an ice hotel, here’s a question. What do you do in the middle of the night when nature calls?



Lisa Gossett and Tom found excellent restaurants. Several of us joined them one evening and had a small room to ourselves. The elk was awesome. **Marda Waters, George Lopez, Camille LaRoe and I** found The Big Red Roof restaurant near the hotel. It has a real name but it quickly became The Big Red Roof for obvious reasons. **Camille** had a “pizza attack” one day and tracked down a really good pizza place.





If any of you have ever been on a trip with **Margaret Walker**, you know she loves to walk. After meeting up with some Austin Ski Club ladies on the ferry across the St. Lawrence, she led them up the side of a pretty steep cliff to check out the small town of Levis. **Marda and Margaret** can tell you all about Quebec City as they walked all over the beautiful city as well as toured by bus. **Ron Schmidt** toured the local museums until he called home to Houston to greet his new grandson, William. Congratulations, Ron!

Carnival was everywhere and the carnival mascot, Bonhomme, popped up from time to time—including the hotel wine and cheese bar. Several of us braved 19 degree weather to go to the night parade.

A big hit was ice fishing. **Pete Matheau** met some old friends there and went fishing. Do not believe him when he tells you how big the fish were. It has



everything to do with how they were photographed. **Frank and Sue Ann** fished as well and had their rainbow trout cooked on the spot.

One last comment. I've been a TC for a lot of trips. Not this one—I was just on a trip to Quebec with my friends. Thank you.



