HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

June 24th.

It was a dark and stormy day when we docked in Halifax. We had a tour planned for a "Tall Ship" sailing around what is called the "second of the world's finest harbors". We had taken a cruise around # 1 when we were in Sydney and we had been camping on the other side of Nova Scotia many years ago so we decided not to use our tour tickets today. The rain coming down and the 25 mile an hour winds just might have had something to do with our decision not to go out sailing in the inclement weather.

We put on our rain jackets and walked just one block down the "boardwalk" bordering the harbor to the Halifax Seaport Farmer's Market. It featured "artisans local et produits du terroir". We had been very disappointed after reading so much about the famous "English Market" in Cork to anchor there only on a Sunday when that market was closed. This time we were super lucky to arrive on a Saturday when many extra booths were open in the Halifax Seaport Farmer's Market. The market is housed in a multi-story enclosed building, with handicraft stalls, small restaurants, plant shops, fresh vegetable, meat and fish shops and pastry shops. They were all filling up fast with local and tourist shoppers. We first "window shopped" at the many handicraft shops. Very interesting were the local products used in jewelry making and the creative vendors selling wooden cutting boards and other nice wood products. Plant vendors had cut flowers and many herb plants as well as bagged herbs that seemed to be selling popularly. Fresh local vegetables were being bagged and the fish market was doing a brisk business. Coffee and pastry shops were crowded and soon little stalls selling ethnic foods had patrons lined up. We walked up and
down the aisles just enjoying the variety of goods and taking in the great smells. As we started to get hungry we checked out the food stalls. There were ladies dishing out Asian foods at a large buffet; Indian dishes sizzling on grills, Jamaican pasties, African patties, Italian sausages, German cold cuts, Japanese and Chinese stalls, a schwama stall, gluten free stalls, and loads of other enticing foods. We asked the saleslady at the German meat to make us a package of assorted cold cuts that we pointed out: wursts and interesting shaped salami cut into heart or scalloped flower shapes. Then we went to the "Cake Lady" where the helpers were dressed in German costumes and bought a huge pretzel to share. We found a table and shared it with 2 sisters from Minnesota and Illinois who were on a bus tour around New England and Canada. We enjoyed our sampling of cold cuts lunch then took the elevator upstairs to "window shop" at more handicraft stalls. Back downstairs we found a stall selling boiled perogies stuffed with spinach and cheese or potatoes and Frank found a mango lassi for Stacey to drink. We sat next to the staircase where there were "steps" for sitting filled with locals and tourists. We had spent the last of our "loonies" and "toonies" Canadian money as Halifax was our last stop in Canada and last foreign port except for Bermuda.