

Crissy! Welcome to Hamilton Ontario Canada!



Wednesday April 4

I arrived in Hamilton, Ontario Canada, at Amanda's house. She was so happy to finally have me here, but she wasn't feeling very well (flu season), so I spent some time with my new friends for a couple of days.





They gave me a big welcome party and got some things out of their closet for me to borrow while I stayed here. There will be some fun adventures ahead, so they felt I should be dressed for the occasion.

They also gifted me a Maple Leaf necklace, a cute dress with a matching scarf with Canadian Maple Leaves on it, and some new skates just in case we go ice-skating.



I got to sleep in Amanda's daughter's room. Her name is Beth and she has the most beautiful bedroom! It felt like I was sleeping in a fairytale land with all her fairy dolls around,

the scenic murals painted on her walls, and her princess-type bed. Beth doesn't move around very much when she sleeps, so I felt safe here. :o)
I slept like a baby!



Friday April 6

Amanda still wasn't feeling well, so I made her some chicken noodle soup. She seemed to perk up after having a cup, and she thanked me for making her feel much better.



Saturday April 7

We got up early and went to Battlefield Park for a huge Easter egg hunt. There were a lot of kids there and I got to see Dora the Explorer, Elmo and of course the Easter Bunny! He was too busy hiding all the eggs to get a picture with him though. It was very cold out, so the chocolate eggs were nearly frozen! I'm on the steps in front of Battlefield monument. It was built in 1913, and stands 100 feet tall to commemorate the century of peace between the British and the Americans.





Battlefield Park is a memorial park located at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment. People gather here once a year, usually in June, to re-enact the Battle of Stoney Creek during the War of 1812, and when it's on, Amanda can hear the cannons and guns from her house. Here I am standing in front of Battlefield house and sitting on one of the cannons.

www.battlefieldhouse.ca





When I went to bed that night I made sure I left the Easter Bunny some carrots and my Easter basket out for some goodies - I've been a good girl.



Sunday April 8
HAPPY EASTER!! Wow!! I woke up to find my basket full and a trail of Easter eggs to follow.....



So I got dressed in this cute Easter outfit that Cricket let me borrow and I started my egg hunt! I was surprised to see any eggs left for me since Kyle and Evan (Amanda's sons) are the master egg hunters in the house. I could hardly wait to eat some chocolate, so I grabbed as many eggs as I could, stuffed them in my basket and found a quiet spot where I could indulge! Yummmm!!!



Amanda had a school meeting, doctor's appointments and errands to run on Monday and Tuesday, so I hung out with my friends, and I shared some of my chocolate with them – it went very quickly!

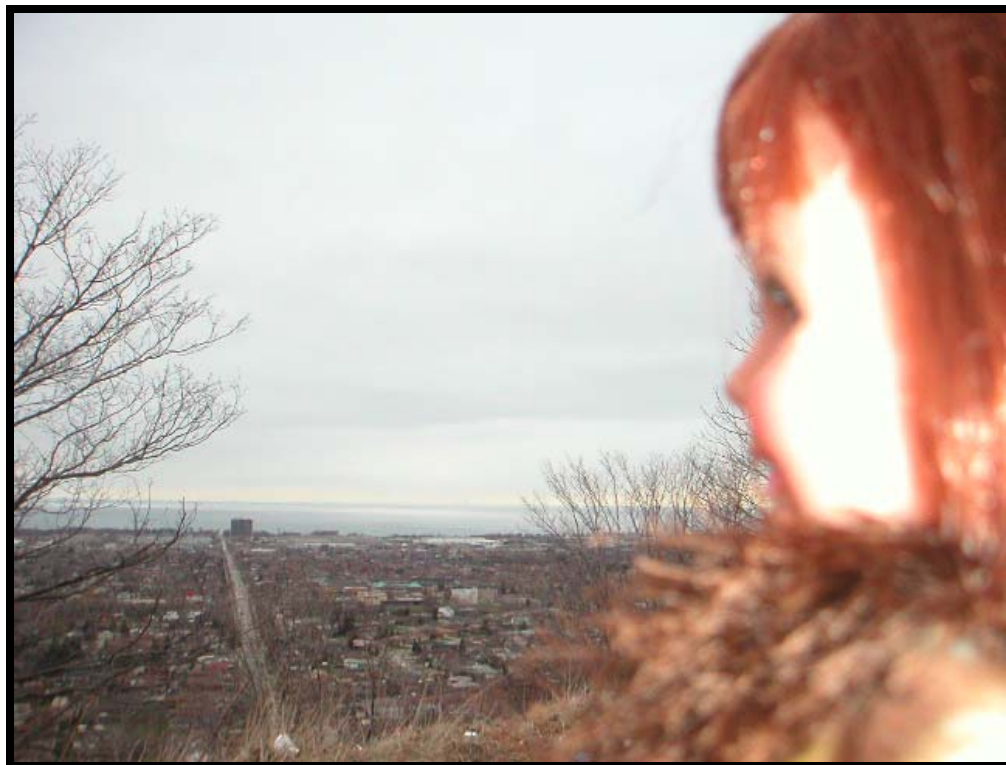
Wednesday April 11

Amanda took me to this place called The Devil's Punchbowl, it's located at the top of the Niagara escarpment and was created at the end of the last ice age. Huge streams plunged over the Stoney Creek Escarpment to carve it out. You can see the many different colored layers of stone, sand and fossils that make up the Escarpment in this area, it looks like a rainbow. It contains stratified rock, red shale, grey shale, limestone and shale dolomite. I thought about bungee jumping over the 121-foot waterfall, but then decided it was not such a good idea after all.





From up top of the Escarpment you can see all of lower Hamilton and surrounding areas, I can see across Lake Ontario too! What a view!!



We took a walk along the Hamilton Beachfront. It's quite a popular place to go during the summer months. There's a fish and chips restaurant and an ice cream shop, mini-putt, batting cages, go-carts, volleyball - lots of fun things to do. There's a huge trail that goes on for miles around Lake Ontario, it's a good thing we stayed close to Amanda's van; it was about to rain. On a really clear day, you can see straight across the lake to Toronto. In this picture you can barely see the silhouette of the CN Tower in Toronto.



We also took a trip to Dundurn Castle. These are pictures of me in front and behind the castle. It was built between 1832-35 for one of Canada's first Prime Ministers, Sir Allan MacNab (1798-1862). There are 3 levels and more than 40 fully furnished 19th century style rooms to view inside.

www.hamilton.ca/museums

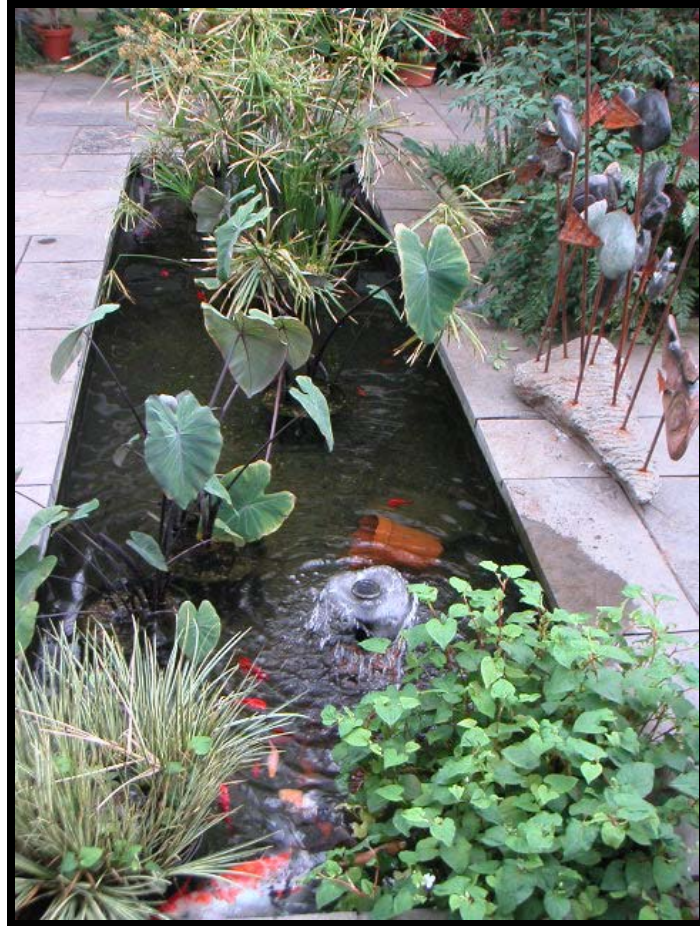




Thursday April 12 2007

Amanda and I went to the Ontario Garden Show at the Royal Botanical Gardens. The RBG is a large area of land around Lake Ontario with huge gardens full of every kind of flower and plant. It is most beautiful in the summer when most of the flowers are in full bloom. You could spend a few days there just walking around the trails and large gardens and sightseeing. The show we went to was mostly exhibits. Since we've had a late winter, there aren't many plants in bloom outdoors, but it was interesting to see the indoor Mediterranean garden where I had my pictures taken with some different plants. I stood beneath a large cork tree; it reminded me of my platform shoes!!





**I was feeding the fish in this pond, but fell over as Amanda took the picture, good thing I didn't fall into the water!!
I loved this huge wreath, I felt so small sitting inside of it.**





Here I am sitting outside in the globe at the Children's Garden....brrrrr, it's cold out here. Where's the warm weather!? Amanda says it not normally so cold this time of year.



The show was nearly ending and it was time to leave the RBG. Here I am in front of one of tulip gardens; soon they will be in bloom. There will be another show in May to view all the spring bulbs and flowering trees. Amanda bought a Japanese Maple tree. It just stands a little taller than me right now. If you love gardening like Amanda does, then this is a fantastic place to see. www.rbq.ca

Friday April 13 2007

This was a fun-filled day! We took a trip to Niagara Falls, I couldn't wait to see one of the natural wonders of the world! Amanda and her 3 kids, her mom and brother all came on the trip, so there wasn't a seat for me in the van, so I sat up here on the dash to see the sights along the way.



Almost there.....





Wow, look at downtown Niagara Falls. There's so many fun places to go! Hey, there's Spiderman, and The Incredible Hulk and King Kong!



I wanted to peek into Guinness Book of World Records to see if I held the record for the longest hair, but we did have a schedule to stick to.....

Here's our first stop, The Niagara Falls!



We did the Journey Behind the Falls tour first, it was really cool to be so close to all that water and going through the tunnels behind the falls. I had someone dare me to go over The Falls in a barrel, but I just couldn't find one my size!

This picture of me turned out pretty dark, but you can see The Falls behind me. It's a good thing I wore this rain cape, it was very misty!

Hey! There's the Rainbow Bridge connecting Canada and the USA!



Amanda says I'm famous too, so she had to snap a picture of me with these celebrities that have visited The Falls.



We shopped awhile in the gift store and then had lunch at the Table Rock Café, we could see The Falls from where we sat. It was a fabulous view! Everyone really enjoyed their lunch.

Our next stop was the Bird Kingdom, I've never seen so many types of birds in one place! It sounded pretty with all the birds chirping at the same time. Here I am in the small aviary with the smaller birds. There are lots of birds in here but they hard to see in the picture. A funny tiny bird behind me was trying to pick up a branch that was far too heavy for him to carry, and it kept weighing him down every time he tried to fly up with it, we found it very amusing to see him keep trying.





I just loved this waterfall located in the large aviary; this is where all the bigger birds stay.



Behind me, you can see a colorful toucan; he was very loud and talkative. Maybe he was trying to tell me that he wanted some of my hair for his nest! LOL!

Next we went to the Butterfly Conservatory. There were thousands of butterflies in there, and some very beautiful ones too. You have to be very careful about where you step so as not to hurt a butterfly because they land everywhere in here. I also learned you're not supposed to touch the butterflies since they are so delicate.



Look closely and you should see a number of butterflies behind me in this picture. I was waiting for one to land on me like they were with other people, but I think it's because I forgot to wear my orange blossom perfume this morning and didn't smell sweet enough for them! It was 85 degrees in here, quite hot and humid!



Amanda took my picture with this very large butterfly, it was amazing to see all the different butterflies here! I got my own butterfly "tattoo" to bring home.

Our last stop was to the Skylon Tower. It was a fun ride up the elevator to the top, but a little scary to some who don't like heights, like Amanda's mom, she stood at the very back of the elevator.



There was an awesome view of everything when we walked around the top of the Skylon. Here's the Horseshoe Falls behind and waaaayyyy below me in this picture.

And behind me here is the Rainbow Bridge and Niagara Falls USA.

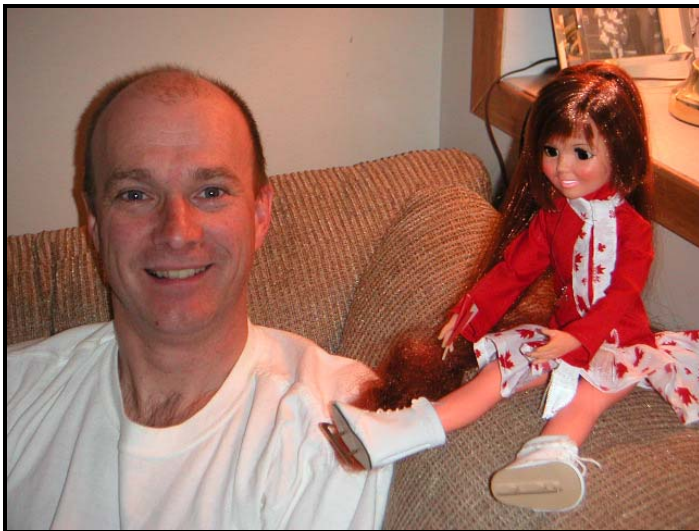


We were very tired after the Skylon and headed home. Amanda's kids - Beth, Kyle and Evan were fast asleep within minutes of getting back in the van. We all went to bed when we got home. ;o)

Here I am with all my souvenirs from Amanda. I didn't get to go ice-skating as we had planned, but thought I should try on my new skates and dress. I can't wait to eat those real Maple Sugar candies! Yum! Amanda said she'll miss me, and hopes that I come back again for a visit!



Here are some pictures of me with Amanda's boys Evan and Kyle, hubby Karl and Amanda herself.



I've enjoyed my vacation here in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and now I'm off to the west coast, to be with Linda in British Columbia Canada.

Thanks for the fun! Love Crissy XXX