



On the Road Again



Peter Brother crossing BC on the Kettle Valley Railway Summer 2016

Some people thought I was crazy to be travelling by myself in dangerous places.

One daughter of a friend said "he is not acting his age".

Then I read this quote:

"Your age is not the number of candles on your birthday cake, or the gray hairs you find while looking in the mirror. It's the voice inside you that tells you to try something new."



Peter Brother experiencing the kindness of strangers in Taiwan.

Peter Brother is an adventurer who has recently transplanted himself into the Comox Valley. He has cycled Costa Rica, France, Italy, Greece, Taiwan and New Zealand mostly camping and self supporting. Next year he is getting a bike that will allow him to ride in dirt and will cycle the Great Divide from Banff to Mexico. In this article he shares some thoughts about his Americas journey, during which he turned 70 years young.

In September 2010 I returned home from a bicycle tour of New Brunswick. My friend Puran said to me "so what's next". The words that immediately came to me were "maybe I'll ride my bike around the World". Puran said, "what about North to South?" A light bulb went off inside my head and without much further thought I decided that night to ride from northern Canada to the tip of South America. I didn't know it was impossible for a 69 year old to do it, so I did it. I took a year to plan and left August 23rd, 2011 to fly to my starting point of Whitehorse in the Yukon with an ultimate destination of Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Although I had a rough plan of the route and time (20) months, much was left to decide each day.

One of the purposes of my travelling through the Americas was to inspire others to follow their dreams. As John Barrymore has said, "A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams". Did I feel fear. Yes, not knowing where I would be the next day or night, bears, being in a foreign country, entering Latin América were just some of the ways I experienced fear. I felt the fear and then did not let it stop me from doing what I wanted to do. As Mark Twain said, "Some of the worst things in my life never happened." I rarely felt unsafe. I love this quote from Elaine May, "The only safe thing is to take a chance."

Being on the road has been such an adventure. I have rarely felt unsafe. I have experienced the kindness and generosity of strangers so many times. It has been about connecting and discovering despite cultural differences we are all the same. I have been inspired by meeting a lot young people on my travels and encourage them to follow their bliss, to do what they really want to do and not what others are telling them they must do.

In the last 5 years I have travelled around the World. In many ways I feel more at home on the road than I do at home. So my advice to you, get out there and do what you have always longed to do. Throw off the bowlines and sail away from the safe harbour. It won't always be easy, or pleasant, but it will enrich your lives. When you think about it, the purpose of our lives is to live life fully in each moment; the good, the bad, the ugly and the beautiful.

Peter will be presenting the details of his Americas trip at 7 pm. on Wednesday April 5 at the Florence Filberg centre. Admission is by donation.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE AMERICAS

PRESENTATION BY PETER BROTHER



On August 23, 2011 Peter Brother embarked on a 20 month adventure, cycling through the Americas. Starting in Kluane Junction in the Yukon he travelled to the southern-most city in the world – Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

Turning 70 while on his journey he hopes to inspire others to follow their dreams. He taught meditation and yoga in Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru, visited Macchu Pichu, trekked in the Cordillera Blanca, trekked in the 2nd deepest canyon in the world and visited one of the few glaciers that are still growing. He met many amazing travelers and the people of Latin America – friendly people everywhere he went.

Come and listen to his stories of adventure and see some of the most beautiful scenes of Latin America.

Wednesday April 5th, 2017, 7.00pm

Evergreen Lounge, Florence Filberg Centre, Courtenay

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