

2024 RVing Trips

Day	Date: Wed May 8	Site: 43F	Campground: Whistlers
#1	Weather: sunny	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Jasper

This year's big adventure begins. We planned to hit the road at 11:00am and that's what we did. As seems to be our habit, we stopped at KFC, yes, still in Morinville, and bought lunch for the road. West on Hwy 642, South on Hwy 44 to Hwy 16 where we turned westbound. It was an uneventful trip to Hinton where we stopped for the first of many, many fuel fill-ups. I put in 156 litres which was about 50 more than I had calculated but I blame winter evaporation and some running around into Edmonton for the difference.

Leaving Hinton, we were through the Jasper National Park gates and among the beautiful Rocky Mountains in about 15 minutes. We slowed down for sheep and goats on the road and soon turned south on Hwy 93 and Whistler's Campground. I checked in at the office and we drove to our site. There was an elk in our site so we waited a bit until she moved off and then we got squared away after our 4+ hour drive. This is a huge campground with hundreds of sites. Being so early in the season, there were only a couple of campers in each loop. Apart from the elk, we saw mule deer, squirrels, woodpeckers, and more.

Firewood is included with the \$11 fire permit so I drove to the wood lot expecting knotty and wet poplar. I was happily surprised with seasoned and split tamarack. Literally tons of it. I loaded up enough for tonight's fire and delivered it to Tess who started a fire while I took Spike for a walk. This is his first long drive, first time in the motorhome, and first time camping. He had an upset tummy but I'm sure he will adapt.

We have a nice fire in the shadow of Marmot Mountain (?) and went in about 8:15 to listened to the Oilers blow a 4-1 lead and lose their first playoff game against the Canucks.



Whistler's Campground, Jasper Site 43F

Day	Date: Thurs May 9	Site: 336	Campground: Tunnel Mountain
#2	Weather: sunny	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Banff

We said goodbye to the elk and hit the road along Hwy 93, the Icefields Parkway. The scenery is spectacular. Every corner presents another mountain or lake. There are lots of viewpoints to stop and gawk if you are so inclined. Since we are playing tourist, we stopped several times.



Hwy 93 Typical Viewpoint

The drive was uneventful and Seven performed well. There was on particularly steep section with a 50kph speed limit where I was down to 1st gear and 40kph. The instant fuel mileage display said we were burning 95 litres (at \$1.50 per litre) per 100 kms on the stretch. That's less than 3 miles per gallon on the old scale! Yikes.

Still on Hwy 93 something unusual happened. I actually pulled out and passed a car. No, it wasn't broken down and stopped; it was doing 80kph. I wanted to go 90kph so the transmission would shift into overdrive which gives us better mileage. Nice to have that big 8.1 litre V8 engine under the floor.

We arrived safe and sound at Tunnel Mountain campground in Banff. Like Jasper, it was nearly empty with perhaps 5% occupancy. We settled into our full service site which even has a couple of trees. We will be here 2 nights so we will have

time to wander around town tomorrow. Today we went for a drive and saw the golf course, the Banff Springs Hotel, and toured downtown. We went by the local Petro-Canada gas station to find it is not suitable for a 53' RV plus toad. We will go into Canmore, about 20kms east, to fuel up before heading west into BC.



Tunnel Mountain Trailer Court Site 336

We got a series of texts from Mark. He drove himself to the hospital with what turned out to be a gall bladder attack. They have scheduled surgery for tomorrow and in the meantime have pumped him full of antibiotics and pain killers. Happily he has Jillayne to look after the dog and to nurse him back to health when he is discharged in a day or two. Modern laparoscopic surgery is much better than the old days when we were his age.

Day	Date: Fri May 10	Site: 336	Campground: Tunnel Mountain
#3	Weather: sunny	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Banff

I got up around 8:00 to another beautiful sunny day. There is still lots of snow in the mountains all around us and the whole area is beautiful.



View at Tunnel Mountain Trailer Court

After a leisurely breakfast and walking spike, we decided to head into Canmore, 20kms east. Fuel is 11 cents perlitre cheaper and I know the Petro-Canada station is easy to get Seven in and out. We left Toad at the campsite and made the short trip.

It is amazing how much more power is available without the Honda on the back! Accelerating onto the highway I quickly found myself 10kph over the 90kph limit. That never happens when towing. We fuelled up and, since McDonalds is in the same building, we ate a late lunch of nuggets and fries with a caramel sundae for desert. Nice treat.

We were back in time to rest a bit before dinner. We listened to the hockey game on my phone and the Oilers came from behind to win 4-3. This ties the series 1-1 and the next 2 games are at Rogers Place in Edmonton. I'm sure the rabid fans will help the Oilers take the next 2 games before they get their 4th win back in Vancouver. Woo hoo!

Mark's gall bladder surgery was scheduled for noon but got pushed back a couple of hours. He let us know he is OK. The women in his life will look after him while he recovers.



Banff Springs Hotel

Day	Date: Sat May 11	Site: 58	Campground: Martha Creek
#4	Weather: sunny	Temp: 24	Nearby Town: Revelstoke

When I was walking Spike this morning I saw a 5er and truck that look vaguely familiar. Sure enough, it was Don and Linda Allen. We stopped by for coffee and wished them happy 50th anniversary. After a brief visit we left with the promise that we would not be such strangers to each other going forward. It was great to see them.

On the TCH westbound we saw a black bear, a mountain goat (or maybe a Dahl sheep), and a semi-trailer that has caught fire and melted into a puddle of aluminum scrap. Looks like the fire started in the reefer. The driver had enough time to drop the trailer and pull ahead a couple of hundred metres to safety.

Mark is supposed to go home today. He sent a photo of the 4 little incisions they made for the surgery. The surgeon told him his gall bladder was so bad parts of it were necrotic so it was going to have to come out sooner or later. Luckily he was home and close to the hospital.

Martha Creek Provincial Park is about 20kms north of the TCH, past the Revelstoke Dam. We were here when we lived in Salmon Arm but it looks completely different now: a lot more sites, paved roads, shower building, boat launch and every site has a firepit and picnic table. It is still one of the cleanest Parks we have visited in BC.

Our site is near the far end and right on the water. It is level and has lots of room for Seven and Toad. The only thing missing is power. And cell phone service.



Martha Creek Prov Park Site 58

After dinner we had a nice campfire looking out over the lake. Tomorrow will be a busy day so we went to bed early.

Day	Date: Sun May 12	Site: 12	Campground: Juniper Beach Prov Park
#5	Weather: sunny	Temp: 26	Nearby Town: Cache Creek

First and most importantly, Happy 75th Birthday to Tess. We started off with an attempt to drive up to the Meadow in the Sky but it was not yet open for the season. Next stop was in Revelstoke for supplies then back on Hwy 1 westbound. Salmon Arm is definitely growing with Walmart finally building a store there and surprisingly, a casino too. We didn't stop in.

The next town is Kamloops and like Salmon Arm, it is growing. We stopped for gas on the west end of the city and found prices higher than my original budget by 10 cents. What else is new? With the tank full and the bugs off the windshield, we continued west.

We came to Juniper Beach Provincial Park which is on the bank of the river we have been following since Salmon Arm. Number 12 is a back-in site on the river bank. A nice surprise was power and water. There are trees behind us, along the river bank, but nothing between sites which are pretty close together. No cell or TV service here.



Juniper Beach Site 12

I had to use my 25' 30 amp extension cord to connect to the pedestal which is on the passenger side. It was just long enough. The site is not very level and the back tires are several inches off the ground to get level. I'm not crazy about that but after blocking the front tires and checking the compaction of the gravel under the rear jacks, decided to chance it.

There are train tracks on both sides of us but happily they do not blow their horns at the local crossing. CP Rail is beside the campground and CN Rail is across the river. After an hour they just became background noise and didn't bother us. There are rainbow and steelhead trout in the river but since we are not licenced, we didn't try our luck.



Happy 75th Birthday to Tess

For Tess birthday I BBQ'd her steak and lobster. Later, while she sat by the campfire, I did the dishes and tidied up. The Oilers vs Canucks playoff series continues tonight but there's no cell, radio, or TV service. I took Spike for a walk and heard hockey game noises and went to investigate. They gave me the radio station and offered a hit off a joint. Its been many decades since I partook and I'm not driving so why not. One tok and I said thanks and came home. We went in to listen the game which we lost 4-3. The Canucks now lead the best of 7 series 2 games to 1.

I had been told that modern strains of pot are much stronger than what I remember as a kid. I'm amazed at how much stronger. One hit and I was in a very happy place. It would have taken at least a full joint to get there back in the day.

Day	Date: Mon May 13	Site: 68	Campground: Juniper Beach Prov Park
#6	Weather: sunny	Temp: 26	Nearby Town: Cache Creek

We woke to light rain showers and after morning routines, hit the TCH for today's leg. We turned south at Cache Creek and headed down the Fraser Canyon. It was interesting to see the difference irrigation makes. One side of the highway was brown grass and stunted sage bushes while immediately across the roadway it was lush and green grasses looking nearly ready for the first cut of hay.

We stopped at a rest area and met a solo traveller from Quebec. He had been in Nanaimo for a couple of years and was heading back home. On foot! He sometimes hitch-hikes but gets few rides, no doubt because of his long hair and dishevelled appearance. We gave him a couple of bottles of water and a couple of sandwiches. At the same time a heavily stickered little station wagon with a licence plate reading Brazil stopped. It was 2 guys on an adventure, returning from Alaska heading to California. They have been on the road for 7 months. Wow!

We hit a few construction delays but nothing more than a few minutes. We soon found ourselves in Hope and the GPS brought us right to the campground although in a roundabout way. It sends us through a residential area in a zig zag pattern instead of just going to the correct street and turning onto it. Dumb machine.

Check-in was easy since we have a prepaid reservation and we settled into our home for the night by about 2:30pm. The office suggested the cheapest gas is Chilliwack. I used Gas Buddy to search and it is indeed cheaper than surrounding communities. I think it is because of the Costco gas bar in Chilliwack. Regardless, that's where we will fuel up tomorrow.



Coquihalla RV Park Site 68

Day	Date: Tues May 14	Site: 82	Campground: Fort Victoria RV Park
#7	Weather: sunny	Temp: 20	Nearby Town: Victoria

We were ready to go by checkout time at 11:00 and after dumping tanks, we headed to the local Petro-Canada because their price was the same as the rest of the Fraser Valley towns and this station is easy to get in and out. Surprise! The price shot up to \$1.80 per litre. Gas Buddy to the rescue and we stopped at Costco in Abbotsford and coincidentally, the credit card tap limit of \$200 filled the tank completely.

The drive to the ferry was uneventful. The GPS made it easy and matched the highway signage exactly. We arrived at 2:30 for the 5:00pm sailing. They sent us away until 4:00 so we went to the local mall where Tess went shopping and Spike and I had a nap. We checked in at the ferry and the attendant rechecked out length and reported at as 55 feet, not the 53 I quoted. It was only an extra \$15 so not a big deal.

Because we arrived early, we were nearly at the front to the line. First on means first off and we were #2 off the boat. The ferry trip was normal although Spike was not happy about being left alone for 90 minutes.



On Board the Ferry to Vancouver Island

Once we were back on the road, everything went fine until we got near the RV park, he GPS tried to send us through a residential neighbourhood. Luckily I saw a sign showing us the way. When we got to the RV Park, I turned left into what I thought was the main entrance just as Tess spotted the office across the street. No problem, I'll just drive around that building and go back. Wrong – dead end!

After dropping the Toad, I backed back down the hill and into a side road in one try. A local even applauded my driving which was kind of cool. We got to the office and nobody was there. A sign gave a list of available sites, all about 40' long and very close together. It is a tight fit but for 3 nights we can live with it.

I ran a scan and the TV found 12 stations broadcasting over the air. None of them were showing the hockey game. iheart Radio app to the rescue again. The Oilers won 3-2 with a goal in the last minute. The series is now tied so it is effectively a best of 3.



Fort Victoria RV Park Site 82

Day	Date: Wed May 15	Site: 60	Campground: Fort Victoria RV Park
#8	Weather: sunny	Temp: 21	Nearby Town: Victoria

A beautiful sunny day to start our Vancouver Island adventure. I registered at the office so now we have the WiFi password and I can get to a week's worth of emails among other chores. Our check-in sheet was apparently taped to the front door and I didn't see it. We are supposed to be in #60. It only took a few minutes to pack up and move into a slightly bigger and more private site with shrubs on 3 sides. Closer to a WiFi signal too.

We went to see the West Bay Marine Village RV park on the inner harbour. They have made many improvements since we stayed there last in 2016 – fewer (36) but bigger sites, concrete sites, paved road, new shower & laundry building, new office and so on. Very impressive. The site that we paid \$575 for is now \$1,535 per month during the winter months and \$115 per night during the summer. Wow.

A stop at the local Can Tire store for a plumbing fitting. Tess spent the time wandering in the gardening section dreaming about how nice all their plants would look in her garden if only they could survive an Alberta winter. We wound up just buying some dish washing liquid and my fitting so we got away cheap.

Tess wanted to see if the Vietnamese restaurant at Tillicum Mall was still open so off we went. Traffic is terrible because of all the bike lanes everywhere. Instead of putting them a block over through residential areas, they took away a lane of traffic on arterial roads. Now there are thousands of cars sitting idling their engines while they wait to move. Seems counter-productive to me. Anyway, the restaurant was still operating although with different owners. The food was disappointing.

Next stop was the Root Cellar Garden Market. Easy parking, easy to get in and out, nice big store but ridiculously expensive, even for BC. Our last stop for the day was the View Royale Casino. It is now called Elements Casino and looks pretty much the same on the inside. Beer is \$9 a bottle and for 6:00 pm on a Wednesday and a payday, it was pretty quiet. It took me a couple of hours to lose my \$100 budget. By then, Tess was ready to go too.

We got home to a happy dog although he had destroyed the screen on the inner door. A half hour and \$10 will fix it up.



Fort Victoria RV Park Site 60

Day	Date: Thurs May 16	Site: 60	Campground: Fort Victoria RV Park
#9	Weather: cloudy & windy	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Victoria

We were up at the crack of 9:00am and by 11:30 were ready to face the day. We picked up my niece Lindsay and decided on Vietnamese (again) for lunch. We picked a place at random simply because it was close by. It was a small place in a strip mall but clean with friendly staff. The food was good although I prefer a little more spice. We had a good visit and Lindsay seems to be doing pretty well.

About 3:00pm we arrived at Otto and Denise Schnoeller's very nice home about 10 minutes from the ferry terminal. Otto and I worked together at WCB Collections back in the 1980s. We yakked about mutual friends, all those we have out-lived, and our lives since then. They are keeping well, all things considered, keeping busy with their home based small business of boarding small dogs. There were 2 there, plus their own 2 dogs, when we visited. Spike got along well with them all.

After visiting we went to Walmart for supplies then to the casino to watch the hockey game. I ate beef dip for dinner and Tess decided not to eat until later. The Oilers lost 3-2; Vancouver deserved the win with a very good effort, especially on the penalty kill. They lead the series 3-2 and unless the Oilers put out a better effort, the Canucks will win the series back in Edmonton on Saturday.

Since we were there, we played a few games and I left up about \$1. Tess didn't say how much she won, as usual. Back on the road tomorrow.

Day	Date: Fri May 17	Site: 28	Campground: Tsawaak RV Resort
#10	Weather: sunny & windy	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Tofino

After about 4 hours we arrived in Tofino about 5:00pm. The last hour or so was slow because of rough roads and lots of narrow, twisty sections. In fact, much more twisty than straight. Perfect road for that Porsche 911 that blew by us!

After taking a wrong turn or two we finally found the RV park and I went to the office to register and pay the rest of our camping fee. They couldn't find my reservation so I showed them my copy. My copy said June 1st – 4th. Today is May 17, the Thursday before the May long weekend and they are fully booked. I asked for anything including no power. They have a no power site so I took it. Saved about \$100 too. I asked to be put on standby in case of a cancellation so we'll see.



Tsawaak RV Resort in Tofino

In the meantime, I got everything set up in our no power site. The pedestal is there but apparently it just doesn't work yet. The water and sewer do work so there's that. This is a new Park that just opened in July, 2023 and this weekend is their first fully booked weekend so they are pretty happy.

We went for a drive into the little town of Tofino to see what's there. Lots of resorts, restaurants, and so on. I'm sure it will be very busy starting tomorrow night. We plan on going to Brown's Social Club at the Best Western Plus Resort next door to watch the hockey game tomorrow evening. Go Oilers!

Day	Date: Sat May 18	Site: 28	Campground: Tsawaak RV Resort
#11	Weather: mostly sunny & windy	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Tofino

Another nice day here on the west coast. After coffee Spike and I went exploring. There is a walkway beside the office that leads to the beach about 200m away. There were lots of people and lots of dogs. The sign said leash your dog but there was not a single leash in sight, just lots of happy dogs playing so I turned Spike loose. He immediately tried to catch a bird and of course, it took flight. He chased the flock flat out until they turned left over the ocean. Spike got in up to his tummy (about 4") and stopped dead when the cold water got his attention!

We spend a couple of hours walking along meeting other dogs and people. We returned home for lunch about noon. Tofino and Ucluelet are on a peninsula at a 45 degree angle to the main body of Vancouver Island. There are several flat beaches of very firm sand separated by stretches of rock where the surf pounds itself into spray. Within the boundaries of the Pacific Rim National Reserve (like a national park but no fees) lies aptly named Long Beach, the biggest and best known.



Long Beach on a Windy Day

We parked the car and hit the beach. There were lots of people surfing, wind surfing, para surfing, and some kids playing in the shallows very near shore. The wind was howling at 60 – 80kph and there was lots of airborne sand making things unpleasant – Spike wanted to be carried and sheltered from the wind. We left after an hour or so and headed south to Ucluelet, about 25kms down the road.

Uculet is a very pleasant little town, quite a bit bigger than Tofino. We saw the sights then stopped at a food truck to eat. Fresh cod, light batter, and home cut fries. It was the best fish’n’chips since that waterfront restaurant in Newfoundland & Labrador back in 2005.

The hockey game started while we were still stuffing our faces so we listened to it on my phone again. We headed home and got back at the start of the third period so decided to just listen at home because the bar would be full. The good news is the Oilers won handily, 5-1. This ties the best of 7 at 3 wins each. Game 7 will decide it all on Monday.

After showers we went to bed early after a busy day.

Day	Date: Sun May 19	Site: 28	Campground: Tsawaak RV Resort
#12	Weather: sunny & windy	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Tofino

Another blustery day in Tofino. The RV Park is full, or nearly so. Hard to tell as the rentals don’t have toads, of course, and are constantly coming and going. We went through the usual morning routine of walk the dog, drink the coffee and tidy up a bit, then we were ready to face the day.

We all went for a long walk on the local beach. Once again Spike had more fun than we did. He ran with other dogs, met dozens of people, chased birds, and dug up sea shells. I covered 8,000 steps and I’m sure with his 4 short little legs and so much high speed, long distance running Spike must have done 100,000 steps! When we got back Spike and I had a rest in the sunshine. Its not so windy away from the ocean.

Tess and I played Scrabble for the first time in a year. Wow, we are both very rusty with neither of us breaking the 300 points barrier. We had chili for dinner including a bottle of wine. I decided to have a nap. A couple of hours later I woke up and it was nearly bed time. So, I ate some popcorn, read a bit and went to bed.

Day	Date: Mon May 20	Site: 28	Campground: Tsawaak RV Resort
#13	Weather: cloudy & windy	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Tofino

Our last full day here on the west coast of Vancouver Island. We were up at 9:00 as usual, I walked Spike, we had coffee and brekkie and were finally ready to face the world about 11:30am. Then it was too close to lunch time so we ate and dawdled about until early afternoon when we drove a few kms down the road to Tofino.

We wandered around town, bought some keepsakes, and unsuccessfully tried to find someone to sell us fresh crabs. We got back home in time for the game 7 face-off which we watched at Brown’s Social Club a short walk away. We had a good dinner and watched the Oilers hold off a third period charge by the Canucks. The final score was 3-2 and the Oilers are off to the next round. It was a good series.

Since tomorrow is a travel day, I put everything away outside then went in for a long, hot shower before bed.

Day	Date: Tues May 21	Site: n/a	Campground: Kim Hancock's
#14	Weather: rain	Temp: 15	Nearby Town: Coombs

It started raining overnight so it's good that I put away the outside stuff when I did. We got on the road about 11:00am and poked along at our usual pace. There are a couple of steep hills at 18% so we were down to 1st gear a couple of times. I did manage to pass a couple of fully loaded semis going up hill so we were not quite the slowest vehicle on the Island.

We filled up at Petro-Canada in Coombs since the trip computer was complaining about the low fuel level. The most expensive fill ever at \$448 for 240 litres. Ouch! I had calculated our fuel costs at \$2,263 for the trip and we are now at \$1,368 with the next fill scheduled for Osoyoos. I might be pretty close.

We arrived a Kim's after fuelling up and settled in for our 2 night stay. She is cooked us an excellent dinner tonight and we will go out tomorrow for happy hour then return home. Kim's beau, Chris, joined us and we had a good visit. Towards evening the skies opened up and we got a dump of rain which is good news for the perennially dry area.



Kim Hancock's Driveway

Day	Date: Wed May 22	Site: n/a	Campground: Kim Hancock's
#15	Weather: sunshine	Temp: 20	Nearby Town: Coombs

We went to sleep last night in the rain and woke up to a beautiful blue sky. Once we were ready to head out in Toad, we said bye to Kim and promised to be back well before dinner. From here, through Qualicum Beach to the Oceanside Drive we turned north. About 45 minutes later we came upon Mac's Oysters where Tess stocked up on oysters, clams, and so on. Next it was the seafood store at the Denman Island ferry terminal for more goodies.

We stopped to check out the public oyster harvesting area of the shore. As usual, there were a few people busy filling their buckets. We decided not to bother because it is a lot of work and red tape compared to the cost of just buying them. The last stop was in Courtenay at Quality Foods and at Dollarama for needed supplies.

We got back before dinner as promised and Kim was having problems with her internet provider. After discussion and some web browsing, I think she will transfer everything over to a Rogers business account for her household, the RV pads and two cottages. Hope it all works out.

Tess showed Kim some pretty flowers she had found. Turns out they are Scottish Broom which is listed as an invasive plant to be destroyed on sight! Oh well, I threw them in the trash.

We made plans to go to fish n' chips dinner at Deep Bay next week for what Kim calls the best fish n' chips she has ever had. We'll see.

Day	Date: Thurs May 23	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#16	Weather: sunny	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

We woke up to the sounds of a 1966 Plymouth Satellite 426 Hemi, 4 speed classic car. Bruce, Kim's handyman, got it out of the garage at 8:00am and there is no quiet way to do that! Kim has sold it and the buyer came at 8:30 and loaded it on his trailer for the trip back to his home in Arizona.



1966 Satellite Hemi 4 Speed Sold

I took Spike for his walk, visited with Kim and then prepared for a short trip on the road to Nanaimo. The drive was uneventful and we checked in at Living Forest and got settled. I had to use the 30 amp extension cord to reach the power pedestal and all 3 lengths of stinky slinky to reach the sewer connection. It only took one hose to reach the tap once the regulator and filter were in-line. So we are all set for the next 2 weeks.

The site is a little smaller than the seasonal sites we had in past winters but it is nestled among lots of tall trees. Right beyond the firepit we have a view of the Nanaimo River and the harbour so I'm sure we'll be right at home here.

The Oilers game against Dallas Stars in the Stanley Cup semi-final was our priority so we went to the casino after an early dinner. As expected, they had lots of TVs showing the game. We won early in the second OT period, 3-2. It was an excellent game. And the casino, we both lost our budget. Oh well.

We got home to a lonely dog about 9:30, settled into our routines and went to bed at our usual times.



Living Forest Entrance

Day	Date: Fri May 24	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#17	Weather: rain	Temp: 15	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

It started to rain sometime overnight and it rained all day. Today was a do nothing day spent at home watching a couple of movies, surfing the web and giving Spike a much needed bath. Tomorrow will be an out and about day so I don't feel bad about nesting today.

Day	Date: Sat May 25	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#18	Weather: cloudy and showers	Temp: 15	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

Since we were up late (for us) last night watching a movie on Netflix, we slept in until after 9:00am. Once morning routines were out of the way we were ready to go about 1:00pm. Rona is near the campground entrance so that was our first stop. As expected, they didn't have the specialized lock nuts I need. Tess got to visit their garden centre for her fix. Next stop was a grocery store and dollar store.



Living Forest Site 220

Next stop was Can Tire where, with the help of the young lady at the parts counter, I found my locking lock washer/nut. I paid for it with points. Woo hoo! They didn't have any Lexan and told me to go next door to Rona. At Rona I bought a small sheet of acrylic Lexan type stuff. Expensive!

We returned home to drop off the dog before going back to the casino to watch game 2 against Dallas. I installed the Lexan in the door and, not surprisingly, it looks much better than the cardboard beer box I put there the other day.

Off to the casino where we watched the game while having a beer or two. And a plate of fries since I go the munchies. The Oilers looked pretty average losing 3-1 including an empty netter at the end. Once again, they could not hold onto a lead. The next couple of games are back in Edmonton so hopefully they do better with the home crowd behind them.

We got back home about 10:00pm and went to bed shortly after.

Day	Date: Sun May 26	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#19	Weather: cloudy and showers	Temp: 15	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

We woke up to another gloomy day. Nestled among the trees we can barely see the sky although we have a nice view of the river mouth and Nanaimo Bay. There is a cruise ship newly converted into a "floatel" or floating hotel for workers

building the Squamish LNG plant anchored nearby. It is being prepared here and will be docked in Squamish when the construction project gets underway later this year.



View of Downtown Nanaimo, River & Delta

Spike and I took a walk along the cliffs overlooking the ocean and river delta. The photo above is low tide; the ocean comes in to the edge of the green vegetation near the top of the foreground tree.

When we were ready to get on with our day all we wound up doing was a trip to a grocery store and a stop at a Pho place for soup to go. Back home, after walking Spike, we watched a forgettable Marvel movie and some Bugs Bunny cartoons before going to bed at our usual time.

Day	Date: Mon May 27	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#20	Weather: cloudy and showers	Temp: 15	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

Our opinion of Living Forest remains very high. Someone is constantly cleaning something and campsites are tidied and even raked between campers. There are lots of campers of course, including a lot of Europeans in rental RVs. Everyone is friendly and Spike is making lots of 2 legged and 4 legged friends.

We have settled into a routine here with trips to local merchants every second day followed by a hockey game at the casino. At \$10 per beer that is getting expensive so I may have to switch to free coffee or tea. Today was no exception and we watched the Oilers play one good period out of 4 and take another loss giving up a 2 goal lead to lose 4-2 including another empty netter. Sigh.

Spike likes all the new smells here and is happy to go on a walk any time. If the weather improves we plan to check out the local adventure park, the zip lines in particular. Tess still says she wants to try it so here's hoping for a warm, sunny day soon.

Day	Date: Tues May 28	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#21	Weather: cloudy and showers	Temp: 17	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

We went south today, first to the local airport then to Ladysmith. I was looking for a couple of latches for Seven's basement storage compartments. I found them in Ladysmith and at the same price as I paid at home, plus the extra level of sales tax, of course. I now have enough to complete repairs plus a spare. I'll install them the next nice day.

While we were touring around Ladysmith we saw a Dairy Queen so decided to treat ourselves to onion rings and ice cream while watching the world drive by on the Island Highway.

After dinner we watched a classic movie "Where Eagles Dare" from the late 1960s. Clint Eastwood looked to be about 25 and Richard Burton perhaps 40! Good movie though.

Day	Date: Wed May 29	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#22	Weather: sunny, cloudy and showers	Temp: 16	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

We woke up to sunshine but by noon it was lightly showering off and on. Not miserable but not suitable for sitting outside either. We spent the afternoon inside working on reading, games, and email. Poor Spike really wanted to go for a walk but it would mean a full bath/shower for him and I was too lazy.

We headed out to the casino about 5:00pm to watch the hockey game. The Oilers played well and came back from a 2-0 deficit to win 5-2 including an empty net goal. The series is all tied up again. More excitement to come.

Home to a good dinner and a movie before bed.

Day	Date: Thurs May 30	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#23	Weather: sunny, cloudy and showers	Temp: 16	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

Another routine day here in Nanaimo. Slept in until 9:00am, leisurely breakfast, email, a little tree work then take Spike for walkies. We found a nice area outside the RV park that's suitable for off-leash play so I turned him loose while we walked. We met other people and other dogs and had a good time. We met lots more back in the campground on our way back home.

Tess went in the car to the local shopping centre and came back a couple of hours later with supplies and goodies. No hockey tonight so after a yummy leftover roast beef dinner, we settled in to watch a movie then to bed at our usual time.

Day	Date: Fri May 30	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#24	Weather: sunny, cloudy, rain	Temp: 17	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

The sun was out when we got up, finally. By bedtime it was raining again and we didn't get to see the Northern Lights which were supposed to be out because of sunspots or something. Maybe next time.

Pretty much a normal, relaxing day for us. I walked Spike, we did a little shopping, went to the casino to watch the Oilers win against Dallas Stars, etc. Only one more win to take the series and clinch a berth in the Stanley Cup final. Go Oilers!

This was my second casino visit in a row where I made money – another \$45 tonight. Woohoo!

Day	Date: Sat June 1	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#25	Weather: rain	Temp: 14	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

We woke up to another rainy day. While it limits our outdoor activities, it should be helping the drought situation here on the Island. I took Spike for a long walk between showers and of course, we got caught in the rain. We looked like a couple of drowned rats when we got home. A nice warm shower and blow dry later and Spike is as handsome as ever. Spike is developing a reputation at the campground as a super friendly little cutie. One camper even brings him treats. We had plans for BBQ, Scrabble, and a movie but I wound up BBQing between showers and we weren't in a Scrabble mood so just watched the rain come down and a movie.

Day	Date: Sun June 2	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#26	Weather: rain	Temp: 14	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

More rain. Too wet to walk the dog, or go to the zip line place, or walk along the waterfront. We just hung out until game time. Back to the casino where I lost all the profits I made the 2 previous visits. Oh well, at least the Oilers won and are heading to the Stanley Cup final for the first time in 19 years.

On the way home we stopped at DQ for some onion rings and frozen treats then home to read for an hour before bed.

Day	Date: Mon June 3	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#27	Weather: few showers	Temp: 16	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

Today turned into a busy one. Tess did laundry while I took Spike for a walk and visits with our fellow campers. Next it was off to market for a few things. While Spike and I were waiting in the car outside the Dollar store, we were

entertained by a crazy person fighting with a bicycle while loudly arguing with himself. He seemed harmless to others and passersby just ignored him and carried on with their errands.

Back home we had a nice fire; the first since we arrived at Living Forest. I found some Ash hardwood floor scraps in the bottom of the wood storage compartment. Ash burns very nicely with no smoke, lots of heat, and nice big flames. Doesn't last long though.



Living Forest Campfire

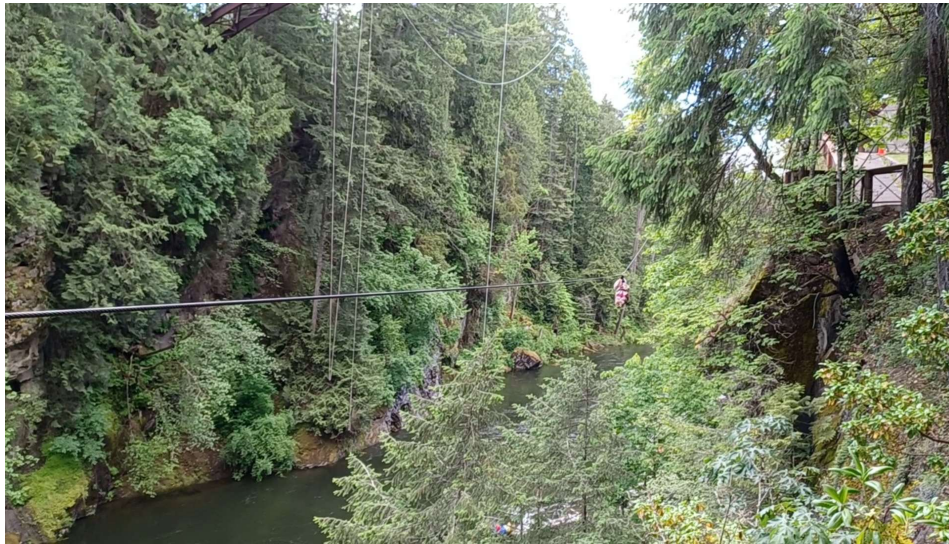
Once we were out of wood, we went in to watch a movie before bed.

Day	Date: Tues June 4	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#28	Weather: mostly sunny	Temp: 17	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

We woke up to another nice day and decided to take advantage of it. About 10 minutes south of us is WildPlay Nanaimo. They offer adventure tours through the treetops, axe throwing, bungee jumping, ziplines, and so on. We arrived to find a big operation with lots of staff and, because school is still in, relatively few customers. We walked about and Tess thought about trying a bungee jump, she was uncomfortable with the long climb up steep stairs to the jumping platform!

That's OK since we were really here to try the ziplines. The basic tour is \$30 each so I plunked down my credit card and the adventure began. We met our two young guides, Abbey and Peter. They were friendly, patient with us, very safety conscious, and supportive. Once we were harnessed up we went to the practice line. This is a short line, perhaps 60' long at about 10' off the ground. It is also slow compared to what would come later. We had no problems and were soon heading to the first of the two real ziplines.

Peter went across first to demonstrate and so that he can catch (or rescue) us on the other side. Tess went first so I could take a video. She got strapped in and Abbey shoved her off into space. This 400' line goes across the Nanaimo River gorge at 80' above the water. It was a hoot! From there we switched to the long line.



Here she comes!



Tess At Speed - 900' Zipline

Once Abbey had made the trip, Peter went to receive us at the end of the long line, back across the river. Next it was my turn and I really got going! This line went across the river gorge at an angle so most of it was over water. It goes under the bungee jumping / primal swing bridge. It was great fun. I was about 150' from the end when Peter started yelling "brake, brake" at me so I really laid into the brake and still hit the padded tree at the end pretty hard. The tree is OK. Me too.

Next up was Tess. She didn't get up my crazy speed and her landing was relatively gentle. She had the biggest smile on her face when she got disconnected from the line. She looked like a pro coming down.



Woo Hoo!

After all that excitement we were hungry. We ate at the little Vietnamese restaurant we found last week. Good food and reasonable prices. We returned home to a happy dog and it was time for walkies. The rest of the evening was quiet with a movie.

Day	Date: Wed June 5	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#29	Weather: sunny	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

Another nice day. We puttered around the campground until it was time to go to Nori Japanese Restaurant with Kim and Chris. We met them at this upscale restaurant full of good smells. I had some trouble hearing because of a large boisterous group beside us and the acoustics in the room. Once they left I could rejoin the conversation.



Kim & Chris at Nori Japanese Restaurant

The food and drinks were excellent, as was the company, of course. This may be the last time we see them so it was special.

Back home a few hours later to a happy dog and a Liam Neeson action movie before bed.

Day	Date: Thur June 6	Site: 220	Campground: Living Forest RV Park
#30	Weather: sunny	Temp: 20	Nearby Town: Nanaimo

We woke up to another nice day. Since this is our last day, probably ever, on the Island, we decided to stock up on more shellfish so after morning routines, we headed up Island. We came home with crab, oysters, and clams. Then a BBQ and a (propane) fire to finish off our last night here.

Day	Date: Fri June 7	Site: 54	Campground: Tsawassen RV Park
#31	Weather: sunny	Temp: 24	Nearby Town: Tsawassen

We got underway with lots of time to make the ferry. Good thing because the tow bar that connects to the car was stuck unlocked due to the rain and salt air. We stopped at Rona on the way out and bought a can of WD-40 but a good soaking didn't fix the problem. It is only a short run to the ferry at Duke Point and even shorter to the RV park in Tsawassen so I just let it rattle around back there.

We have hit a new low in RV park standards with this place. Not enough parking space at check-in area, interior roads are nearly impassible, wifi doesn't work, mostly full time residents with old run-down RVs, no trees or shrubs, just a

parking lot with power, water and sewer next door to an abandoned water slide park. And they call it a resort because of a little pool! What a joke.



Tsawassen RV "Resort" Site 54

The first order of business was fixing the tow bar and that took nearly an hour to clean, sane, and reassemble everything. It should be good for the rest of this camping season. Cost was just the can of WD-40 and some time. And knowing how to service it, of course.

I ran a channel scan on the TV and found a bunch of local over the air channels. One in French, one in Mandarin (?) and most of the rest familiar to us - Global, City, etc. There were a couple of local channels from Bellingham, Washington too.

Day	Date: Sat June 8	Site: 220	Campground: Tsawassen RV Park
#32	Weather: sunny	Temp: 24	Nearby Town: Tsawassen

We got underway about 10:30 and fought bumper to bumper traffic most of the way east to Abbotsford. Then things normalized and we poked along at our usual pace of 90 – 95kph. We passed a couple of slow poke trucks on hills and in turn, we were passed regularly by diesel powered pickups towing 5ers. Nothing unusual there. There were two 40 foot diesel pusher motorhomes that passed us going up 6% grades, including one that matched our speed then easily accelerated around us when it was safe. And they have exhaust brakes and make that cool pssshht sound when they stop. I want one.

Todd on his quad met us at the golf course turnoff and we followed him to his place. Good thing because I didn't remember the last turnoff. We climbed up his very steep driveway, only scraping the hitch a little at the bottom transition. After dropping the car, I turned Seven around in the newly cleared level space behind the house and we got

settled. Todd has put a lot of work into clearing the space for us, removing vehicles, campers, and assorted junk. It almost looks too tidy to be Todd’s! Well done.



Todd's Driveway

It is game day – game 1 of the Stanley Cup final (Oilers vs Florida Panthers) goes tonight at 5:00pm and we made it to Todd’s by then. A disappointing loss 3-0 including an empty netter.

Day	Date: Sun June 9	Site: n/a	Campground: Todd’s Driveway
#33	Weather: sunny	Temp: 26	Nearby Town: Kaleden

Today was visit and putter day. Todd and I visit while puttering on something, in this case, Seven. We did a laundry list of chores including installing the replacement basement door latches, removing the old satellite dish from the roof, and restocking our firewood supply. Todd has a power splitter that works really well and made short work of splitting up 30” rounds of fir. We should have some nice fires ahead of us.

I dug out my super magnet, put it in a plastic paint bucket and dragged it around on the driveway outside the shop. It picked up kilos of screws, nails, welding rod ends and other assorted junk that can lead to flat tires. Todd wanted to know just how strong the magnet is so he stuck it to his truck and pulled it off fairly easily. Sheet metal is one thing, an actual slab of steel is a whole different animal. He stuck it to a spare excavator bucket and it was seriously stuck! He couldn’t budge it even with a crowbar. Finally, I pounded it sideways with a piece of 4x4 wood post and managed to slide it off.

Todd cooked an excellent dinner: steak, corn on the cob, garlic toast, veggies, caesar salad and so on. We all ate like piggies and after dinner the girls retired early and Todd and I watched a Godzilla movie. Terrible acting (of course) and dialog but the special effects were very good. I don't think I have ever seen a movie dubbed from Japanese to English that worked smoothly.

Day	Date: Mon June 10	Site: n/a	Campground: Todd's Driveway
#34	Weather: sunny	Temp: 26	Nearby Town: Kaleden

The only thing left on my laundry list of repairs is the lights on Toad aren't working. At least the turn signals aren't and I'm not sure about the brakes. Todd and I went into Penticton, about 25 minutes away, and picked up new 7 pin connectors to replace the corroded and mangled ones. We wired them in and not have all lights working.

To thank Todd for the great meal yesterday, Tess made steak fajitas for dinner. We ate while watching the Oilers score a goal early and then get out-played, out-hustled, and out-scored for the rest of the game. We lost 4-1 and now trail the series 2-1. I hope they can get it together for the next two games at home.

Todd has a septic connection behind the house and a blue whale to transport the liquid so we dumped 7's tanks. It was a lot of work for Todd to move the full whale. Next time I'll dump at a proper station. While we were at it, I refilled our fresh water tank so other than needing a propane refill, we are good to go for another 5 days.

Day	Date: Tue June 11	Site: n/a	Campground: Thompson's Driveway
#35	Weather: sunny	Temp: 26	Nearby Town: Genelle

We said our goodbyes and hit the road about noon by the time I got the car connected. We stopped to refill our nearly empty propane tank at the bottom of the hill so now we have full water and propane and a third of a tank of gas so away we go. It is a pretty drive through southern Okanagan Valley then up the big hill out of Osoyoos. We stopped at the viewpoint for lunch and chatted with a couple from Saskatchewan about RVing and gave them a tour.



Osoyoos Viewpoint

By Grand Forks the low fuel alarm was sounding. As usual, I fired up the Gas Buddy app to check prices and it showed a PetroCan station ahead with the lowest price in town so away we went. Between the last Gas Buddy update yesterday and today they had increased their price from \$1.539 to \$1.719 while down the street it was still \$1.539. The other guys were even cheaper than PetroCan would be with my 13 cent discounts. It was a little challenging to get in and out but I managed. The pump was very slow so it took 15 minutes to fill up 7.

After a few stops to walk the dog and get a drink, we arrived safe and sound in Genelle at the Thompsons and got settled into the driveway in front of the shop. Plugged in to a 15 amp circuit and blew the house breaker. Plugged in to the shop power and blew that breaker. Looks like the actual 30 amp plug has an internal problem which has probably also hurt the extension cable. A trip to Can Tire tomorrow should fix that.

We had a great dinner and visited until bedtime. Tomorrow will be a busy day.

Day	Date: Wed June 12	Site: n/a	Campground: Thompson's Driveway
#36	Weather: sunny	Temp: 26	Nearby Town: Genelle



Camping At Greg & Siony's

After a fitful night the four of us had french toast and sausage for breakfast and carried on visiting. Greg and I hit Can Tire for the 30 amp plug ends (I got the last ones) then stopped by the local computer repair place for a second opinion on his HP All in One. The tech agreed with my assessment that it cannot be repaired. We had previously checked several web sites and another HP All in one can be had for \$900, regular desktops and laptops were all over \$1,000 which is more than he wants to spend.

The shop had a stock of Lenovo (used to be IBM) mini computers for a good price. This tiny machine has the basics to do everything Greg needs. I had them double the RAM to 16GB and ordered a 512MB hard drive upgrade for the 256MB unit for an extra \$100 or so which is money well spend. I also selected an external USB HDD case to salvage the HDD out of the old HP unit. A couple of cables and we were in business.

In the afternoon I installed the cable ends and plugged in the RV. Everything seemed OK but later the breaker in the shop tripped again. It appears the electric hot water heater may be drawing too much power so I turned it off. This fixed the breaker problem.

Before working on the computer we hit the casino for dinner and some playing. I lost \$50 at the blackjack machine, \$2 at a time. It took forever. We had a pretty good dinner and eventually made our way home about 9:00pm. I assembled the new computer components and started the first boot process then went to bed. I'll finish up the install process tomorrow.

Day	Date: Thurs June 13	Site: n/a	Campground: Thompson's Driveway
#37	Weather: sunny	Temp: 26	Nearby Town: Genelle

Today was a busy one, at least for me. While Tess and Siony went shopping and then to the casino, Greg and I finished up our list of chores. First was finalizing everything on his new computer. It seems to work well with the additional memory but at the last minute, the Wi-Fi stopped connecting. The computer shop called to say his bigger hard drive was in so he will take it in Monday to have that installed and to fix the Wi-Fi. I expect they will just exchange it for another machine.

In the afternoon we tackled the problems with his comet. It took some fussing with the timing and I identified a problem with the distributor which he can address later. Once it was running well, we took it for a test drive and he let me drive. It has been perhaps 25 ears since I drove this car. It sounds just as great, has adequate performance, a better hydraulic clutch system now and will still chirp the tires going into 2nd. It has a 3.55 rear gear which is a good compromise.

A quick run to Safeway to pick up fixing for dinner and we were in front of the TV for the face-off at 5:00. The Oilers played pretty well for less than half the game. Certainly not well enough to beat a very strong Florida Panthers team. Now we are down 3 – 0 in the best of 7. A comeback to win the cup has only ever happened once so I doubt this is the year the cup returns to Edmonton.

Day	Date: Fri June 14	Site: n/a	Campground: Fernie RV Resort
#38	Weather: sunny	Temp: 25	Nearby Town: Fernie

We said our goodbyes and got on the road at exactly noon. On Tiffany's recommendation we took the Nelson route which includes a free ferry ride. It was an easy route with no huge hills like the Salmo-Creston skyway. Nelson is a very pretty little town with lots of people out and about. We eventually got to the ferry terminal and lined up. Turns out the summer schedule is not yet in effect meaning there is only one ferry going back and forth. Sailings are about every 90 minutes. Since we were 4th in line, we obviously missed the boat by only a little bit. We had to wait over an hour for it to come back.



Kootenay Ferry

Once across the lake to another tiny town I don't remember the name of, we drove for at least 90 minutes with a 60kph speed limit. It was very twisty but the surface was good and there were no long climbs. I could not have gone any faster than I did regardless of the speed limit so we just enjoyed the views. This little detour added at least 3 hours to our travel time today.

We saw an elk grazing beside the road and 3 RCMP traffic stops. One of the victims had blown by us about 20 minutes earlier and 20 minutes after we saw him getting a ticket, he passed us again! Slow learner.

The trip computer started saying change engine oil so I checked my records. It has been exactly 5,000kms since the last change using good Mobil-1 oil so I will wait until we get home.

We arrived at the very nice Fernie RV Resort about 8:00. Fernie is on mountain time so we lost an hour on top of the delays due to the slow but scenic route we took. It all made for a long day. This is a very nice RV park beside the Elk River and surrounded by mountains. About 175 sites, full services, paved roads, manicured grass and lots of activities for kids.



Fernie RV Resort site B10

Day	Date: Sat June 15	Site: 21	Campground: Crooked Creek Campground
#39	Weather: rain, sun, cloudy, windy	Temp: 9	Nearby Town: Waterton

Today was a short travel day. About 2 hours east along Hwy 3 to the Pincher Creek turnoff then south. Tess saw a grizzly bear near Sparwood and a couple more elk. After we turned south there was a marked RCMP SUV beside the highway northbound and I didn't think too much of it. About 10 minutes later we saw a herd of at least 75 bikers going northbound. They were followed by 8 marked and unmarked RCMP SUVs. I wonder what the story is.

We stopped in Pincher Creek to fuel up at UFA because they were the cheapest and there is no Petro-Canada here. There is a Walmart though so Tess stopped in for some groceries. A short drive later through a driving rainstorm, we (I) missed the campground turnoff and had to backtrack. The rain had almost stopped by then and stopped a bit later. The sun even came out before retreating behind the clouds.



Crooked Creek Campground Site 21 near Waterton

The campground is beside the highway but there was almost no traffic after 8pm or so. Full service fairly spacious parking lot as these things often are. It is fine for a couple of nights. We didn't go out as we need a quiet afternoon/evening. No fire tonight because of the wind. The Oilers played the 4th game of the Stanley Cup final and clobbered the Panthers 8-1 so there will be a game 5. We went to bed happy.

Day	Date: Sun June 16	Site: 21	Campground: Crooked Creek Campground
#40	Weather: cloudy, windy, rain & snow	Temp: 8	Nearby Town: Waterton

I woke up early and the wind was still blowing and the furnace was on. There was some fresh snow up in the mountains proving that summer is not here yet. I got happy Father's Day wishes from Mark and from Mel which was nice. Today was explore Waterton day and we headed 5 minutes down the highway to the Park.

We explored the town and bought a beaver tail to snack on. The weather didn't cooperate with low clouds and drizzle in the townsite so we couldn't see the mountains that surround it. We did check out the lakefront area then headed out an access road to Cameron Lake about 10kms west. Very scenic except for the hidden mountains. And the mixed rain and snow falling on us. On the way back we saw a momma black bear and two cubs on the mountainside across a small river from us. Always exciting to see bears in the wild.



Waterton Lakefront



Momma Black Bear & Two Cubs

Next stop was the iconic Prince of Wales Hotel which overlooks Waterton Lake. It was built in 1927 by an American railway company to attract American railway tourists to come and drink in Canada during the prohibition era in the USA. The Prince of Wales (later King George) never did see the place. The lobby has a 4 storey chandelier, there are huge windows overlooking the lake and over priced restaurants and a gift shop.



Tess at Prince of Wales Hotel, Waterton NP

Our last leg was to Red Rock Canyon. It was about 20kms down another valley to the west of town. We drove km after km through a burned area with nothing but charred sticks poking up out of the ground. The fires happened in 1998 and 2017 and burned 193 sq kms inside the park. Mother Nature is busy repairing the damage but it will take at least a generation, I think.

There are dozens of trails marked for walking, biking, horseback riding, and, seasonally, snowshoeing and x-country skiing. Like all National Parks, roads are excellent and everything is clean and well maintained. We got back home in time for a nap before dinner. I got a phone call from Mark to wish me a happy Father's Day which was welcome.

After dinner we watched a movie before bed.

Day	Date: Mon June 17	Site: 21	Campground: Crooked Creek Campground
#40	Weather: cloudy, windy	Temp:	Nearby Town: Waterton

We woke up to a chilly 2C, cloud and rain but no snow or wind. Today was explore Cardston day and we set off around 1:00pm. Cardston is about 30 minutes east and is about the size of Morinville. Farming based, there is really nothing to see. Tess did a restock at the local Extra Foods and we ate an early dinner at a local pizza joint. Turns out Cardston Pizza makes excellent food at a reasonable price and we made piggies of ourselves. On the way back I fuelled up Toad at the local UFA bulk station with the cheapest fuel we have seen since we started our trip.

Back home about 5:00pm and Spike was very happy to see us. I took him for a long walk around the campground and we met lots of fellow campers. I dropped the water and sewer lines and connected the car in preparation for our departure tomorrow. Then we settled in to watch a couple of Netflix movies and turn in at about our regular time.

Day	Date: Tues June 18	Site: 8	Campground: Hoodoo RV Resort
#41	Weather: snow, cloudy	Temp: 15	Nearby Town: Drumheller

When I got up a little after 8:00am there was a couple of cm of fresh snow on the ground. On June 18th! Good grief. Today was a travel day covering about 350kms. The drive to Drumheller was uneventful and the GPS brought us right to the campground. We checked in and I took care of the setup chores. Easy in this case because we only need power and WiFi. We'll use most of our on-board water here then dump both tanks since we will be home tomorrow and we don't need to spend the extra fuel to haul liquids back to Morinville just to dump them there.



Hoodoo RV Park site 8

We settled into our usual routine of walking Spike, making dinner, and so on. I set up the computer to watch the hockey game hoping for the best. Today's game is in Florida and the crowd gave their team a boost. The Oilers led early and held on to win so the now 3-2 series returns to Edmonton for the next game on Friday.

We watched a movie then headed to bed about our usual time.

Day	Date: Wed June 19	Site: 8	Campground: Hoodoo RV Resort
#41	Weather: mostly sunny	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Drumheller

A much nicer day today, of course. We are heading home tomorrow. Spike and I were up early and after breakfast I took him on a long (5,000 steps) walk. He was able to run off-leash for about half the distance and he chased every bird and gopher he saw. Never came close to catching one, of course. Because he was so muddy, when we got home he got a warm shower outside before I would let him inside. He curled up in a ball and went to sleep to recover.

Today was museum day. There was a large herd of schoolkids there but they were well behaved. It has been 25 years or more since we were here and the exhibits have been updated along with the storyboards. Some thinking has apparently changed as new discoveries are made—this is how science works. It took a couple of hours to see it all so it was \$14 well spent.



T-Rex at Tyrell Museum, Drumheller

We drove past the tiny church but didn't stop this time. We did stop at the Horsethief Canyon viewpoint. It lets you see the extent of the erosion that created the badlands. Lots of gophers too.

Tourism is developing here and there are lots more RV parks, mini-golf, an adventure park with zip line, ice cream parlours, and other tourist traps. There's even a big Wal-Mart now.



Horsethief Canyon, Drumheller

On the way home we stopped at the local Vietnamese restaurant but the food wasn't authentic so Tess passed. She decided on Edo Japan and got a sumo sized (big) meal to eat back home. While she was doing that, I made a fire with that nice fir we got from Todd. It burned hot and spark free meaning we could keep it relatively small. A sweet large black dog named Bear and his owner dropped by. She is a dog trainer and gave us a couple of free tips which was nice of her.

We finished the fire when it started to get chilly. We watched a movie and went to bed. Back home tomorrow. Sigh.

Day	Date: Sun, Aug 18	Site: 112	Campground: Wabamun Prov Park
#42	Weather: Smoke, mostly sunny	Temp: 25	Nearby Town: Wabamun

It seems like forever since we have been out but life gets in the way. Gasoline is expensive again so we decided to just go to Wabamun because we won't need to refill the tank before we leave on this short trip. Hopefully we (or maybe just me) will get out fishing in Whitecourt in late September. Isla is with us, at least for the first couple of days. It is always fun to have her along.

The only excitement on the one hour drive to get here was the aftermath of a travel trailer crash on Hwy 16. The tow vehicle had been removed so it must have happened a day or two ago. The destruction was complete with the biggest piece being a cupboard. Hopefully the people are all ok.

We settled into our site and I remembered too late that most of the sites in this loop are too tight to turn into without climbing the curb. We need to select the sites at the end near the playground. Once set up, I went to put the chairs and tables by the firepit and there were wasps everywhere. At least 100 of them were eating the food scraps like chicken wing bones left behind by the previous campers. Jerks.

Isla is afraid of wasps after being stung a couple of times this year so she stayed inside until I had cleaned up. Apart from picking up the bones and sweeping the gravel (I must have looked silly) I killed all the wasps that hung around. The ants were happily dragging away all the dead wasps so they will eat well for a few days. Once it was safe to sit, I lit a fire with the fir I got from Todd. It burns hot and not too fast with few sparkies. My favourite firewood.

There is a blue-green algae warning on the lake so swimming is off the list of things to do but we will still keep busy over the next few days magnet fishing, metal detecting, playing in the park and maybe even fish fishing. Plus campfires, of course.

Our first night was a fire, bbq dinner, then a movie with popcorn and bed by 10:30.



Wabamun Prov Park Site 112

Day	Date: Mon, Aug 19	Site: 112	Campground: Wabamun Prov Park
#43	Weather: Smoke, mostly sunny	Temp: 25	Nearby Town: Wabamun

We all got up late – 10am! Isla was feeling anxious so she slept with Nana leaving me on the fold-out couch. I should have picked the kitchen table bed! The fold out has a horrible mattress, is too short and is hard to get out of to go pee at night. Isla doesn't complain about it because she is 100lbs lighter and over a foot shorter than me. And she doesn't usually have to get up to go pee at night.



Magnet Fishing at Wabamun

Because we got up so late, we had brunch which is just fine. When we were finally ready to get out there and do something, Isla voted for magnet fishing so off we went to the boat launch. The water level is low again this year, down at least 2' from normal levels. I hope this is not the new normal.

We started finding stuff right away. We spent about 90 minutes as it and collected several fishing lures, fishing line, several very rusty tin cans, and the usual assortment of nails, screws and unidentified small metal bits. I made the mistake of touching the magnet to what I thought was a large plastic pipe. Nope, it was cast iron or steel. The magnet made a very solid “clunk” as it grabbed on and refused to let go. Luckily, Isla had caught a 15” long piece of steel, like re-bar but thicker and stronger. I was able to pry the magnet off while Isla was pulling on the rope.

After the hard work of magnet fishing, we went home for lunch. We ate then Isla and Nana had naps inside while I read in my recliner outside. Isla is busy reading “Harry Potter and the The Sorcerer’s Stone”. Her Dad has promised her a prize when she finishes it. I don’t think he expects it will be today.

After a good BBQ dinner we enjoyed a fire and went in to bed about 10pm.

Day	Date: Tues, Aug 20	Site: 112	Campground: Wabamun Prov Park
#43	Weather: sunny	Temp: 29	Nearby Town: Wabamun

We were all up at the crack of 9am and Nana made a great breakfast of bacon, hash browns, eggs, toast and coffee. Once morning routines were out of the way, we decided to go fishing. Because the lake is so low, fishing here in the Provincial Park is not practical so we headed to the town of Wabamun. First stop was the beer store and the nearby convenience store where Isla and I had soft serve cones. Next was the local grocery store for a couple of items.

At the waterfront park Isla and I tried our luck. We wanted to catch something other than weeds but no such luck. Isla claims a small fish poked at her lure but didn’t bite as it was not much bigger than her Len Thompson spoon. After a couple of hours in the sun fishing and watching the boats come and go, it was time to pack it in and go home to eat dinner.



Fishing At Wabamun Waterfront

Back at camp, Isla finished her book and hopefully here Dad will bring out book #2 in the series of 7 books when the gang come to visit tomorrow tonight. After dinner Isla watched a Harry Potter movie so she would be in the mood for the next book.

Day	Date: Wed, Aug 21	Site: 112	Campground: Wabamun Prov Park
#43	Weather: sunny	Temp: 24	Nearby Town: Wabamun

Again the girls slept in and Spike and I got up and did our thing. I had my coffee outside, we went for a walk and then when Tess and Isla were up we came in for brekkie. The only usual camping activity we haven’t done yet is metal detecting but we never got to it today.

It was a lazy day today and we really only hung out reading and visiting. Tess took Spike for a nice long walk too. About 5:30pm Mark, Jillayne, and Kieran arrived for a visit. I lit a fire and we all ate our family traditional favourite quick dinner, ground beef and rice. This was Jillayne & Kieran’s first taste and they both approve.

Mark took his herd swimming at the day use area leaving Tess and I with 90 minutes of peace and quiet. It was wonderful! They came back about 9:00 and we visited some more then a half hour later our visitors left for the city. Isla remained with us and Mark will pick her up from our home when he gets off work.

We are going back home tomorrow. I hope we can get out to Carson Lake at Whitecourt before the end of camping season. We’ll see. If not, we were out 47 nights this year, more than average. We also covered nearly 4,500kms; again more than average.