

Wednesday, September 10 2008



Winnipeg is home to the Royal Canadian Mint.

This is where all of our coins are made, so we decided to check it out.





Maureen got to hold a gold brick worth over \$770,000.

This was under the watchful eye of an armed guard who was also good at answering all of Mike's questions





We had a tour of the facility but unfortunately we were not allowed to take pictures inside.

Mike met the RCMP Moose in the lobby.



Have you ever wondered what it feels like to be featured on the face of a quarter?

Thursday September 11 2008



After a one hour stop to clean the rig at the Marion Truck wash, we continued our westward trek .



The road was bordered by acres and acres of farmland. Even the median between the east and west bound lanes is farmed in many places.



At 2:30 PM we arrived at the Virden Lions Campground.





It is situated only a few miles off the highway and is a lovely little park.



*We picked out
a great site
with trees all
around.*



*After a quick trip into town we decided that next time
we should stay more than one night
as there seems to be plenty to see and do in this pretty little town.*



Friday September 12 2008

Temperature went down to 6 Celsius last night and when we left Oirden at 9 am it was only up to 10. Guess those geese know that Fall is just around the corner.

Stopped at the Saskatchewan Welcome center to pick up some maps.



Saw lots of Farmers bringing in the crops.



Also saw very flat land and some pretty little lakes.



Grain Elevators dotted the landscape



At 11:30 am we arrived at Kings Acres Campground in Regina.

Maureen had made reservations online but apparently they did not get them.

Fortunately there was one site left - only 15 amps but better than nothing!



Maureen's friend Jean and her husband Dave picked us up and we all enjoyed a fabulous dinner at Willow on Wascana Restaurant. They specialize in Saskatchewan dishes. Very yummy!

Sunday September 14, 2008

Jean and Dave picked us up again and took us for brunch at the Plaza



Hotel. We feasted on an abundance of food.

Feeling stuffed to the gills we had a tour of Regina.

This is the Legislature - a very beautiful building facing Lake Wascana.



We were very fortunate to get tickets for a tour of the Corner Gas sets. This popular TV show is filmed in Regina and Rolleau (a little village just south of the city). On TV the village is called Dog River,



Forty miles from nowhere and way beyond normal . www.cornergas.com



Oscar and Emma's house





Jean enjoyed looking at the living room

*The show has won many Junos.
Mike and Dave admire one of them*



Next was Ruby's Cafe





Then onto Emma's bedroom



Maureen tried out Karen's desk in the Police Station.





We decided to drive out to Dog River to see where the outside shots are filmed.

On the way we stopped at the First Nations University. The building is quite unique and has a wonderful spiritual feeling to it.

Out in the country we came across some weird looking things in the middle of a field. Looked like a place for Aliens from outer space to land.







We arrived at Dog River and had a walk around town to see up close all the places that we see on TV.





Monday September 15, 2008

Regina is home to the RCMP training center. They recently opened a museum that features the history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

www.rcmpheritagecentre.com

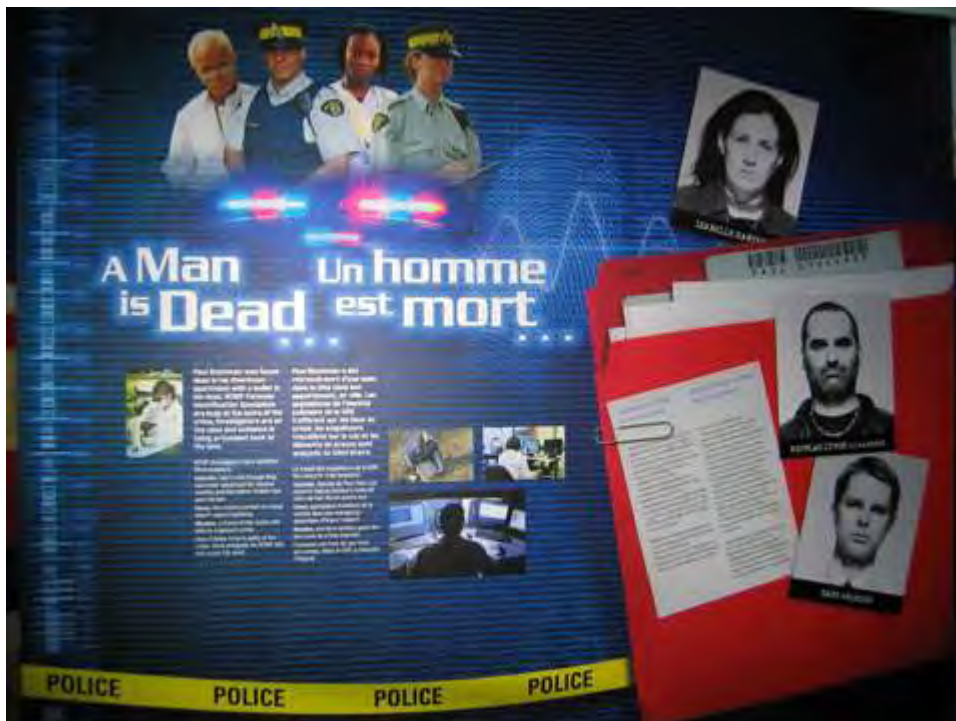
The displays are extremely well done.

A 100 foot long March of the Mounties sculptural procession runs the length of the main exhibit hall.

It demonstrates the evolution of the RCMP and Canada through transportation.



Here's an "officer" tells us about what we are seeing. She was also our moderator in a film explaining the many different roles of today's Mounties.



One of the six main displays explained how a murder investigation is undertaken.

Others showed how the RCMP changed the history of Canada and how they interacted with both the natives and the newcomers.





Tuesday September 16, 2008

At 945 am we left Kings Acres under 17 degree sunny skies and drove north on number 11 highway. Unfortunately the water waste dump was not easily accessible so we had to take it with us to Saskatoon.

Stopped for a rest break at a little place that was dotted with interesting metal sculptures





We travelled along straight roads surround by very flat prairie.





At 1 PM we arrived at Saskatoon to attend the USA/Canada Lions Forum at Prairieland Park.





*We were very fortunate to get a site with full services.
The rigs were very close together,
but our fellow campers were all Lions, so we all got along well.*



Mike was quite popular as he was able to share our internet with many Lions.



Wednesday September 17, 2008

Mike spent most of the day helping the Saskatoon Lions with preparations for the Tailgate Party on Thursday.

Met lots of fellow campers and enjoyed Happy Hour at the campsite.

Jane (friend from Blenheim) and her husband Rob picked us up and took us to a great Greek restaurant for dinner. Then they gave us a car tour of the city. Thanks to both for a wonderful evening!

Thursday September 18, 2008

The Forum Host Committee had a giant Saskatchewan Roughriders tailgate party for the delegates.

There were lots of Ontario Lions enjoying the western hospitality





Awesome prizes were won by the Lions who had lucky dice or poker hands.



Mike ran the slide show presentation which featured football games as well as a trip that the Roughriders took to visit the troops in Kandahar.



Bev Berger was there with her Dog Guide Jasper



Of course there was lots of gummy food

Our Lions Foundation friends Ken and Pearl were busy working hard all morning.



The guest speaker was Steve Mazurak, member of the 2007 Grey Cup Championship team. Check out his Grey Cup ring!





Gainer the Gopher was very entertaining.

*In the afternoon
Maureen took Percy
to the Prairieland
Veterinary clinic for
a checkup and shots.*

*The staff were
extremely
professional and
friendly and Percy
was very cooperative*



The opening ceremonies featured native dancers.



This was followed by a humorous speech by David Okerlund.

Our table hosts at the Friday luncheon were PID Dave and Rachel



A PID and a PCC from Finland were also at our table



Dinner was held at the Western Development Museum



Many Lions dressed up in costumes from bygone days





The museum housed many artifacts from the west







This is a tractor from the 1930s

*During dinner there was entertainment by the girls
with boobs that are made for walking*



IPP Jimmy Ross gave Maureen warm hugs



Saturday September 20, 2008



*International
President Al Brandel
spoke at the
Saturday Luncheon
about his
Presidential program
Miracles Through
Service*

*At the dinner
banquet we sat with
PIP Bill Biggs and
ID Dana Biggs*



Lions Carol, Heidi and Griff from Alberta also shared our table



The Speaker at the closing dinner was Corry Collins. He gave an inspiring speech about his experiences following four days on life support when he was not expected to live. It was an attention grabbing, emotional and often humorous talk filled with lessons on how to live life every day.

Sunday September 21, 2008

The Forum was over and it was finally time to leave Sunny Saskatoon.



The weather was excellent all week. Too bad we spent most of indoors!

Heading west on Highway 7 at 10 am we listened to Stewart McLean on CBC talk about the

importance of slowing down and taking time to enjoy the scenes along the way.

He gave an example of a woman who had a three hour layover in Saskatoon and was able to borrow a car to drive out into the countryside and stand in a field of wheat. This hit home for us as we left Saskatoon and admired the vastness of the prairies. Fortunately we have had the time over the last year to take Stewart's wise advice.



Soon we reached the Alberta border



Just before 3 PM we arrived in Oyen Alberta. The town expanded their campground this past summer. They now have very large, level sites with 30 amp power and water.



One of the water lines broke today so we had to string our hose to the site next door but otherwise it was a great site.



Percy enjoyed a walk.

*Behind the ball diamond
there is a little pond filled
with ducks. Percy REALLY
enjoyed watching the birds!*



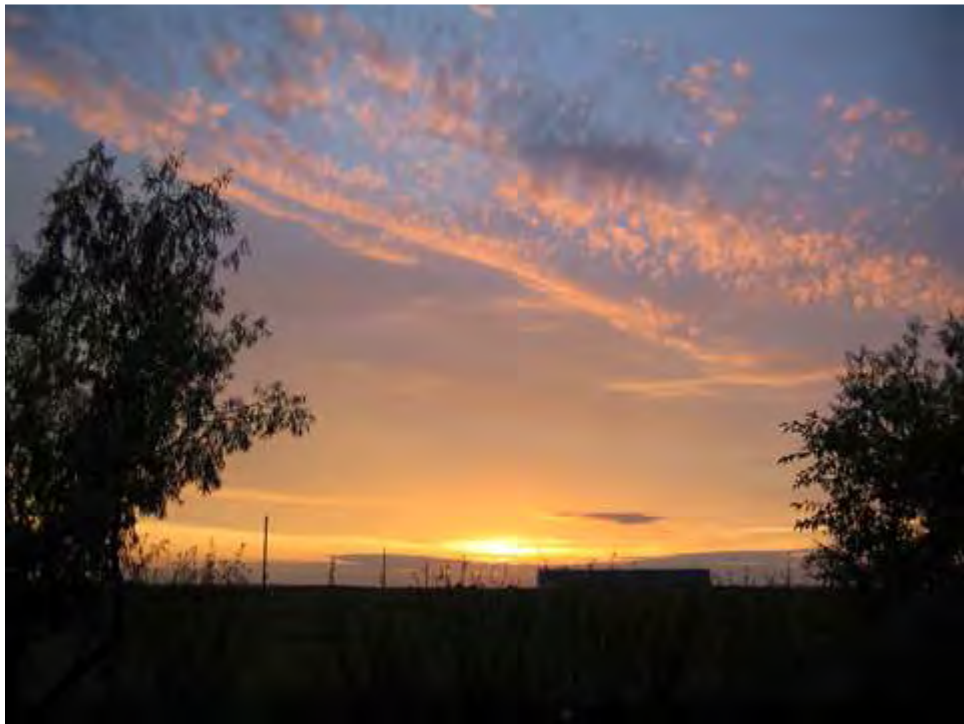
The view beside us was filled with old farming equipment





Through our picture window the sun put on a marvelous colour show







Mike sets up the satellite and the sun set behind him.

We have been very pleased with the internet satellite. It takes Mike about 30 minutes to set it up and as long as we can see a clear south sky it works well.



Monday September 22, 2008



After lunch we drove down to Buffalo to see Heather and Arthur and their family.

This is the post office in Buffalo

The Church



Road to the farm



The River



The farm lane



Unfortunately we were so busy talking and eating that we forgot to take pictures of the family. Needless to say the children are all adorable (especially the Max the newest addition). We were very happy to see that Arthur has recovered from his snake bite.

A big thanks to Heather for a wonderful supper!

*Mike went for a bit of a wander - looking at the 1600+ acre farm!
It sure is big.*



And the equipment is HUGE!







On the way back to Oyen there were at least a dozen deer by the side of the road. Thank goodness none of them decided to run in front of us. We have deer whistles on the truck and so far they seem to be working.

Tuesday September 23, 2008



*In the morning
Maureen visited with
Aunt Pauline at the
Continuing Care
Facility in Oyen. She
seemed to be very
happy for the
surprise visit and
commented on
Maureen's Eastern
accent that sounds
just like her sister in*

law Ethel.

We left Oyen right after lunch. The skies were filled with fluffy white clouds.

The road was quite straight for a while



As we entered the badlands there were hills and more curves in the roads.





At 3 PM we arrived in Drumheller.

The Dinosaur RV Resort will be our home for the next week. It is well treed and features many

bunny rabbits running wild all over. The trees are turning to fall colours and the leaves have blanketed the ground with yellow, gold and tan.

Each site in the middle section has a pagoda housing utilities and a dusk to dawn light on top.



This is the view from the front of our rig.



When we took Percy for a walk he went wild over the bunnies.

Some fellow campers from Alberta joined us after dinner for a campfire and a sing song.