

Sunday April 11, 2010

Saying farewell to our pretty campsite near Bridal Falls, we set off at 10 am and took the CC Highway north. Soon we were climbing up higher and higher. At one point we were at 1200 meters. There was lots of snow on the side of the road but the road itself was clear and dry. Then we tunnelled through the side of a mountain.



We kept seeing signs that said chains needed but no one was putting them on.



When we got to Merritt we turned and climbed a steep hill. At the top there was a sign warning that there was no fuel for 115 km. We sure wish the sign had been at the bottom of the hill!

As the fuel gauge was going down faster than normal, we decided it would be prudent to go back to Merritt and fuel up. The whole thing cost us an hour, but at least we did not get caught with an empty tank.

Stopped at a Rest Stop that was almost full of trucks with trailers and snow mobiles. Don't these guys know it is spring?



The next summit was at 1728 meters and there was even more snow on the slopes.



Finally we made it to the valley and drove through Kelowna.



The next part of the trip was very pretty with lots of lakes and mountains in the distance.





Arriving in Vernon we found our way to cousin Norman and Jo-Ann's place in a beautiful subdivision terraced on a hillside with a fabulous view.



Their driveway was just long enough to fit the fifth wheel. Had to put lots of blocks under the levellers and still could not make it perfectly level but good enough as we were only planning to stay 2 nights.



Jo-Ann made us a wonderful salmon dinner with fish that Norman caught on a recent fishing trip.

Monday April 12, 2010

Norman took us to a huge dog park where he often takes his cocker spaniel Duchess. We all got lots of exercise as Percy was very adept at finding the openings and tried many times to escape rather than enjoying the freedom to run with the other dogs.

In the afternoon Maureen shared some pictures and facts that she had collected about our family with Norman.

Later we went downtown where there are wonderful murals on many of the buildings





They also showed us the Lion's Hall (Norman is 1st VP of the Vernon Lions and Jo-Ann is a new member)

After a lovely supper we all went to the performing Arts Centre and were entertained by students and teachers with both traditional and Jazz music.

Tuesday April 13, 2010

We were supposed to leave today to make our way east to Alberta, but mother nature decided to turn on the freezer and we decided to stay put for a few more days.

Norman showed us another dog park that was just as big as the other one but more secure.



Percy checked the perimeter but was not able to find any escape routes this time.



Wednesday April 14, 2010

Even though it was storming on the prairies, it was warm and sunny in Vernon, so we made another trip to the dog park in the morning.

In the afternoon Maureen and Mike visited another cousin in Lake Country, Winfield, just south of Vernon. We figure it has been about 35 years since we have seen each other, so there was a lot of catching up to do.

Lloyd and Joanne live on a five acre lot that includes a stable to keep their horses. The view of the mountain side was amazing as we sat outside and enjoyed the sunshine.



Thanks to both cousins and their wives for the wonderful hospitality.

