

Thursday September 4, 2008

Temperature this morning was a chilly 6 degrees celsius. Saying goodbye to Happy Land at 9:30 am, we continued west on the Trans Canada highway. The road flattened



out and was less twisty than the previous section but there were still plenty of rocks, trees and pretty little lakes.

Along the way a sign declared that we were crossing the Arctic Watershed, so all water from this point on flows to the Arctic Ocean. We also passed through a time zone, so gained an hour.





Close to Dryden there were definite signs that we were getting back to civilization. The first clue was a telephone cell tower.

The next was something else that we had not seen for weeks – Timmy's



After so many days travelling through Ontario's north we got a good sense of what it takes to drive on the other side of the map . The scale in the south is 1 cm = 8.62 cm. Up here the same cm is 19.1 km - more than twice as long, so no wonder it takes so long to get anywhere!

Finally we arrived at our destination the Northwestern Tent and RV Park in Dryden. We were greeted by Eliana and Walter escorted to our site.





This is “The Park with Heart.”
We even got a welcome card with chocolate hearts taped
to it!



We are impressed with the cleanliness and order everywhere.



The cleanest washrooms this side of Milverton!

Walter certainly has a green thumb and a talent for landscaping.





Percy sure enjoyed going for walks here, especially on the dog walk that goes into the woods!



There are flowers and hand carved water troughs everywhere.



We liked it so much that we stayed an extra day!



Sunday September 7, 2008

Finally time to move on. Left the park at 8:30 am under rainy 10 degree skies and headed towards Manitoba. We

stopped at some plaques that explained how on June 19 1882, the last railway Spike was driven at Feist Lake.



Crossed the border into Manitoba at noon and stopped at the travel booth to make lunch. That is the great part about Rving - no matter where you are there is always a potty and a kitchen following right behind you!

Noted that the topography has definitely changed very flat with extremely straight roads. The trees and rocks have been replaced by fields of corn and hay. It reminds us of the stretch of 401 between Chatham and Windsor.

As we entered Winnipeg we ended up at the wrong end of the road leading to the RV Park. Unfortunately the road was not paved and with the rain was very muddy. By the time we finally found the Travellers RV Park the truck and the rig were covered with dirt. Yuck!





Cousins Helen and Mike came for a visit later that afternoon and kindly offered to take us on a sightseeing tour the next day.



Monday September 8, 2008



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHARLIE



Helen and Mike picked us up and showed us the sights of downtown Winnipeg.

We started at The Forks. It is an expanse of riverside property in the heart of downtown Winnipeg. A meeting place for thousands of years, it is the city's most popular gathering place, attracting nearly four million visitors each year.

While there we enjoyed watching the skateboarders in their very own park.

The Sculpture Plaza is the largest urban Skate plaza and bowl complex in Canada.





We walked over to the Esplanade Riel Bridge
and had coffee at the Restaurant
that was built on the center of the bridge.



Mike and Helen were terrific tour guides, explaining the history and Geography of the city.



They drove us up to the Legislature to say hello to the Golden Boy perched on top of the building



We also saw a statue of Billy Bishop and stopped at the corner of Portage and Main- purported to be the windiest corner in Canada.



Tuesday September 9, 2008



Beside our park there is a huge flock of Canada Geese. They like to feed in the field to the east.



When they get thirsty they all fly at once to the pond to the north.

When they are moving there is quite the cacophony of sound. In the early morning and late evening they practice flying. This is a reminder to us that it will soon be time for these snowbirds to prepare for our trip south!

