

## Crazy-Ass Growth

Written by Susan Hollingshead  
Thursday, 19 July 2007 15:12

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Today we moved farther west and farther north to Cochrane, a pretty little (?) town only 23 kilometres west of Calgary and about 220 kilometres from Lethbridge. Our route took us along Highways 3, 2 and 1 and through more ranch and farmlands. We are staying at the Bow RiversEdge Campground, a new RV park on the banks of the Bow River, just south east of downtown Cochrane where we will be for the next three nights.

After settling in and getting acquainted with our neighbours we drove into town to explore and learn a little more about the area. Largely because of its proximity to Calgary, Cochrane is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. It is a really pretty town, (yes it is still a town) with a western flair that is very evident in the downtown area but there appears to be construction going on everywhere. It is evident that it won't be a small town for much longer.

From Cochrane we drove into Calgary and were amazed at the growth we saw there too. We were here last in the fall of 2005 and prior to that in 2002; we were astounded at the changes between those two times and today we were just in awe with the obvious "population explosion" that has happened once again. It is hard to believe the changes! We'd heard and read about the craziness and today we saw it first hand; the traffic was heavy (partly because there is so much construction going on); we went to the Chinook Mall and drove around for 20 minutes just trying to find a parking spot and once we were inside, you'd swear it was Christmas the way it was packed with shoppers.

Anyway the price of real estate is as crazy as the growth so though we really like the beauty of this area, investing in a condo complex around here is not likely to happen. Tonight as we drove

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back to Cochrane from Calgary the sun was settling in the west and the sky was filled with some churning coloured clouds, making for this pretty horizon!