

## ALBERTA, YOU LOOK SO GOOD!

August 18, 2005

We left beautiful Banff and Lake Louise, and embarked on one of the most spectacular drives in the world! The Ice Field Parkway. It is about 173 miles or so, following the Canadian Rockies from Banff to Jasper. Every turn in the road reveals a new panorama of breathtaking beauty. The young Rockies are jagged and uplifted beyond belief. Many, with mantles of snow remaining thru the summer days, many with permanent glaciers crowning their glory. We have taken this route about three times and it never ceases to please the minds eye.

We arrived in Jasper, anticipating the spectacle of a herd of Elk browsing about the streets and parks. None!

It was necessary that we asked where they were. Sadly we were told that they had all been relocated elsewhere. It seems that they were getting too aggressive and possessive

of their habitat and were charging and chasing tourists and scaring children, and even damaging cars. This has been several years ago, after we had been here. They even had to fence the school yard and playground, to keep them at bay. There are still bears about. The ranger said that a good defense is bear pepper spray, and when hiking, have tiny bells sewed onto your cuffs, to warn bears of your presence. Also look for bear scat, (crap to you city dwellers). Black bears scat has berries mixed in it. Grizzly bear scat smells like pepper and has tiny bells in it!

Among other memories of the day were paying \$US 3.71/gal for unleaded and \$3.25/gal for propane! All the Provincial parks are US \$25 and \$30. Gone are the good old days of cheap Canada!

Dave & Bonnie

