

Elsie Explorations 2023–Itinerary

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Itinerary

Notes

- I have included travel times only since I presume you may decide to stay various lengths of time at these various sites (or along the way).
- Comments about destinations occur **after** the travel times to the destinations

Sandpoint to Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park (5.5 hrs)

- How has the landscape changed (see geography questions)?
- What caused the changes in the landscape?
- How have the changes affected human activities?
- What is the difference between a stalactite and a stalagmite? How do they form?

- What's the story about the brothers Stalactite and Stalagmite that helps you remember which is which?
- I remember the tour we had of the caverns when we were here on our trip to Disneyland as kids. The colours and contours of the caves were impressive, but I was particularly struck by the time they turned out the lights when we were deep underground...along with the stories they told about spelunkers.

Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park to Yellowstone National Park (3 hrs)

- Why is the geyser "Old Faithful" given that name? What makes the geyser happen?
- Why are the various hot springs, mudpots, and fumaroles coloured?
- What is the name of organisms that live in the hot springs?
- What is a caldera? What is magma? How do they affect the landscape in Yellowstone Park?
- At what point do you cross the continental divide? What is it? Where does the water flow on each side? How many other divides will you cross on your tour?
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watersheds_of_North_America)
- Yellowstone is worth some time...particularly for some of the hot spring areas (I was less impressed by the geysers). The hot springs are quite extensive and unique...plus raise some interesting questions about what is happening underground.

Yellowstone National Park to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (5 hrs)

- What happened at Little Bighorn in 1876 and why is there a monument to it?
- Who was Sitting Bull and why is he important for Canadian history?
- What happened to Sitting Bull and his followers?
- How are the Indigenous Peoples and US Cavalry represented in the National Monument? Check the stories that are told there and the artefacts to see whether one "side" is considered more favourably than the other. How would you design the memorial?
- In 1976 (when I was 32 years old) there was a 71-day standoff between the American Indian Movement and the FBI plus US Marshals at the site of the 1890 Wounded Knee massacre (about 6 hours from Little Bighorn).

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument to Black Hills National Forest (5 hrs)

- What are the main crops you have seen as you travel across the US prairies?
- Who are the US presidents pictured at Mount Rushmore?
- How are they represented in the local descriptions and media?
- Why have Native Americans protested the sculptures and their representations at Mount Rushmore?
- Bill comments:
 - It seems that there are a number of options for you in the Black Hills area—including swimming and other activities besides the Mount Rushmore monument. The Vore Buffalo Jump and Badlands National Park seem interesting to me.
 - Tribes such as the Shoshone, Salish, Kootenai Crow, Mandan, Arikara, and the Lakota have long lived around the Black Hills, a sanctuary the Lakota call "The Heart of Everything That Is." Indigenous people knew the land centuries before white people had ever seen it, says Gerard Baker, a Mandan-Hidatsa Indian who served as Superintendent at Mount Rushmore National Memorial from 2004 to 2010.
 - The Black Hills were reserved for the Lakota (also known as the Teton Sioux) in the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. But the discovery of gold in the region prompted U.S. prospectors to soon overrun the area, and the government began forcing the Sioux to give up their claims on the land.
 - Warriors, including Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse led resistance against the land seizures, but, by 1877, the U.S. government had officially confiscated the land. Ever since, the Sioux and other American Indian activists have protested the U.S. government's claim to their ancestral lands.
 - <https://www.history.com/news/mount-rushmore-native-american-protests>

Black Hills National Forest to Sioux Falls (6 hrs)

- Why is the rock around Sioux Falls pinkish? What type of rock is it?
- Can you find a prehistoric burial mound? Where is it, and what is in it?
- I'm not sure what is attractive about Sioux Falls, but it sounds like there is an interesting Park nearby: Palisades State Park. They advertise the river, hiking trails, and rock climbing opportunities
(<https://www.experiencesiouxfalls.com/listing/palisades-state-park>).

Sioux Falls to Madison WI, 6.5 hrs

- How does the landscape change between Sioux Falls and Madison?
- What is responsible for this geological change?
- How do the human activities change—and why?
- I presume that Ben will be your best guide for places and activities in the Madison area.

Madison WI to Indiana Dunes Park, 3.5 hrs

- I presume that Ben will know about this.

Indiana Dunes Park to Cuyahoga Valley National Park, 5 hrs

- I presume that Ben will know about this.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park to NYC, 7 hrs

- Daegan and Samantha will be a good source of information for suggestions about what to see in and near NYC. I was suitably impressed simply walking some of the downtown streets that felt like walking in a canyon of buildings. Fran and Daegan were impressed by the Tenement Museum.

NYC to Cape Cod, 5 hrs

- We've never been to Cape Cod, but you will find plenty of tourist information about it since New Yorkers seem to love it. My expectation is that it is dune country.

Cape Cod to Stowe, 5 hrs

- What is the mountain range in which Mt. Mansfield is located?
- From where did the rock for Mt. Mansfield come?
- Stowe would provide you with an opportunity to hang out in a place other than Elsie for a while. If this seems appealing, let us know early enough (along with the timing) and Fran may be able to get a deal via the Village Green.
- JP will have plenty of knowledge, stories, and places to show you all around the Stowe area. Mt. Mansfield and Smuggler's Notch may be geared up for mountain biking as well. The Stowe path would be available, of course.

Stowe to Bangor, 5 hrs (or: Stowe to Bar Harbour, 6 hrs)

- Why is there a statue of Paul Bunyon in Bangor?
- What is the main industry around Bangor?
- We didn't stop at Bangor when we went through there, but there is a nice river that flows by the town, plenty of woods, and paths around.
- Bar Harbour is a lovely fishing/tourist village on the water. We enjoyed the walking and watching of the activity while there. There will be plenty of tourists.

Bangor to Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park, 5 hrs (or: Bar Harbour to Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park, 5.5 hrs)

- How large are the tides at Hopewell Rocks?
- When are the high and low tides when you are at Hopewell Rocks?
- Why are the tides so large at Hopewell Rocks?
- How are the Bay of Fundy tides used to generate electricity?
- Time your visit to the Hopewell Rocks site when the tide is at its lowest. You will be able to walk up to the rocks. Then come back when they are at their highest and compare the levels.
- Get out the "Mooseless in Mooseland" book to follow some of the East Coast to Montréal sites you will see (<http://billreimer.net/personal/documents/ThomasTrip2013V11.pdf>).

Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park to Halifax, 3 hrs

- When did the famous explosion occur in Halifax Harbour? How did it affect the city and population? What caused it?
- Why was Halifax so important during the two World Wars?
- What is special about Pier 21?
- Why was a Citadel built on the hill above Halifax?
- Why is the Citadel star-shaped?
- Why are Stadacona and the HMC Dockyard in Halifax like Esquimalt in Victoria, BC?
- There are two of our family members for whom Halifax was important: my father and JP. Why were they important to them?
- Visits to the Pier 21 Museum, the harbour boardwalk, and the Citadel are worth the trip.

- Check out the various places in NS where you can learn about Mi'kmaq culture and experiences (<https://www.novascotia.com/trip-ideas/stories/connect-indigenous-culture-nova-scotia>). There are museums in Halifax, and many options on Cape Breton Island. You can plan to stop in on them on your way to NL or on the return trip from NL since you have to travel through Cape Breton Island in both directions.

Halifax to East Lake Ainsley (Pieter deVries), 3.5 hrs

- What is the island on which East Lake Ainsley is located?
- How do you get on to the island?
- Pieter is looking forward to your visit. His house is on a beautiful lake—perfect for swimming, and I think he has a small sailboat. He will be able to give you plenty of information about Cape Breton.

East Lake Ainsley to Baddeck, 1 hr

- Who is Alexander Graham Bell and what were some of the inventions he made?
- Who is Mabel Bell and why is she celebrated?
- Why is there a museum for him and his family at Baddeck?
- Check out the XPlorers program or Club Parka.
- Who are the Mi'kmaq People and where did they live?
- One of our favourite spots is to visit this museum. It is a celebration of Bell—plus his family as they explore many experiments.

Baddeck to the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, 1.5 hrs

- Why is there a fort built at Louisbourg?
- When was it built and who built it?
- Who was Marie Marguerite Rose and why is she important?
- Were there any battles that took place at Louisbourg? Who was involved and when did they take place?
- We greatly enjoyed this site. It includes costumed people and plenty of interesting exhibits and activities among the ancient buildings. Lots of things for kids. Check out the Mi'kmaw Interpretive Centre as well. There are several trails in the region.

Louisbourg to North Sydney Ferry Terminal, 1 hr

- The North Sydney Ferry Terminal is your link to Newfoundland and Labrador.
- From here you have a choice of ferry to Argentia or Port aux Basques.
- The trip to Argentia is 14 hours running from June to September only. It is an overnight trip and gives you a taste of Atlantic Ocean travel—especially depending on the weather. It is also relatively expensive.
- The Port aux Basques trip is about 6 hours and runs all year long. They have a schedule that includes day trips or night trips.
- Taking the Port aux Basques route for both directions to NL means retracing your steps from St John's. It's a 9 hr trip, but could be made unique by visiting different spots along the way while coming and going.
- The main road from Port aux Basques to St. John's is mainly highway, with most of the small towns and cities accessed by short spurs off it.
- I will identify some of the spots we like and you can organize your trip according to your preferences.

St. John's, 1.5 hrs from Argentia, 9 hrs from Port aux Basques

- We have a colleague and friend who lives in St. John's who would be excited to meet with you, and give you great advice about both the city and province. Rob Greenwood has considerable experience with all things NL. If you would like me to contact him, I expect he would give you a great time and plenty of advice for your time in NL.
- Signal Hill National Historic Site
 - Why is this called "Signal Hill"?
 - What happened here in 1762 and 1901?
 - How did Marconi get the antenna for his transmitter/receiver as high as possible?
 - This is a great location for plenty of activities. The tower has exhibits and an amateur radio station. I enjoyed chatting with the amateur operators as they communicated with people from as far away as South America.
 - There is a lovely trail from the tower, down the slope, and along the cliffs by the entrance to St. John's harbour. I think it is named "North Head Trail". It provides great views of the harbour

entrance and the city. It comes out by “The Battery” area of the city. It’s about 2 km but involves narrow paths and a climb back up the road to get to your vehicle.

- The Johnson GEO Centre
 - This is a science centre about halfway up the road to Cabot Tower. It has a nice focus on the geology of the region.
 - Consider parking in the lot near the GEO Centre, walking to the Cabot Tower, then taking the North Head Trail down and around to The Battery region and back to the GEO Centre. It avoids the hard climb up to the Tower after the hike on the North Head Trail.
- Downtown St. John’s
 - This is a lovely walking town. I greatly enjoy walking along Duckworth St, Water St., and Harbour Drive. The latter is great since it runs along the waterfront—close to the ships in harbour.
 - George St, is famous locally for its restaurants, pubs, and taverns. It turns into a free-for-all on weekend evenings, sort of like Montréal’s Crescent St. with plenty of NL style music and full pedestrian streets.
 - Duckworth St and its offshoots are full of tourist and NL shops, restaurants, and the wonderful colourful houses for which St. John’s is known.
 - “The Rooms” is a large building up the hill from downtown. It is a large public space celebrating NL culture, with plenty of collections and exhibits—plus a spectacular view of the harbour.
- Quidi Vidi Lake and Harbour
 - This is a lake and neighbourhood just outside of St. John’s where the Royal St. John’s Regatta is held the first Wednesday in August. The Regatta is a wonderful gathering of people, displays, vendors, and boat racers.
 - The harbour is a great place for fish and chips.
- Cape Spear
 - Canada’s most easterly place.
- Bay Bulls, 30 min from St. John’s
 - This was the spot where we hopped a whale-watching boat and checked out the whales and puffins. See “Mooseless in Mooseland” for some of the stories. Thomas loved the pitching of the boat as we headed out to the puffin island.
- Ferryland, 1 hr from St. John’s
 - There is an archaeological dig taking place in this small town. It is focusing on the remains of the Colony of Avalon from 1621.

St. John’s to Terra Nova National Park, 2.5 hr

- This is a lovely park where we rented kayaks to explore some of the coves in the region (see “Mooseless in Mooseland”).

Terra Nova National Park to Gander, 1 hr.

- What are some of the famous events and activities that occurred at Gander and its airports?
- Why was Gander chosen for an airport in 1935?
- What is meant by a “great circle route”?
- Why was it important to NASA’s Space Shuttle program?
- Why was Gander so important to Europeans in WWI and WWII?
- What happened in Gander on Sept 11, 2001?
- The North Atlantic Aviation Museum is a source of interesting history

Gander to Twillingate, 1.5 hr

- Check out <https://icebergfinder.com/> to see if there are any icebergs in the vicinity. Twillingate is a good choice for viewing them if you are in luck. If not, it’s still a nice fishing town to visit with some spectacular hiking trails, a lighthouse, museums, eating spots, and festivals.

Twillingate to Rocky Harbour and Gros Morne National Park, 5 hrs (Gander to Rocky Harbour, 4 hrs)

- You can come back from Twillingate to highway 1 via Lewisport.
- Rocky Harbour is a small town close to Gros Morne National Park. The park is accessible by car, but most of its attractions are only accessible by foot. Check out “The Tablelands” for an indication of its special character.

- We had a lovely time with Thomas at Rocky Harbour—checking out the local museum/lighthouse, flying his kite, and watching the whales in the harbour below.

Rocky Harbour to Corner Brook, 1.5 hr

- Check for public and kids events at the University Observatory

Corner Brook to Stephenville, 1 hr

Stephenville to Port aux Basques, 2 hrs

Port aux Basques to North Sidney (ferry), 8.5 hrs

North Sidney to Caribou, NS, 3 hrs

Caribou to Belle River, PE, 1.5 hr ferry

- I think this ferry is still operating. If not, you would have to use the Confederation Bridge.

Belle River to Cavendish Beach (via Souris), 2 hrs

- It was in Souris (I think) where I visited the shop of an old boat-builder where the walls were decorated with the many half-hulls he had carved for designing boats.
- Green Gables Heritage Place (if any of your kids are interested in Anne of Green Gables. See “Mooseless in Mooseland”.)

Cavendish Beach to Charlottetown, 45 min

Charlottetown to Shediac, NB, 1.5 hrs

- This takes you over the Confederation Bridge

Shediac to Bouctouche, 30 min

- Pays de la Sagouine, theatrical village (you are in Acadian territory)

Bouctouche to Kouchibouguac National Park, 30 min

Kouchibouguac to Caraquet, 2 hrs

- Acadian Historical Village

Caraquet to Port Daniel, 4 hrs

Port Daniel to Percé, 1 hr

- How did this rock get a hole in it?
- You can walk to the rock at low tide.

Percé to Forillon National Park, 1.5 hrs

- The park has some spectacular walks on immense cliffs.

Forillon National Park to Rimouski, 5 hrs

- I suggest you travel on Route 132 (at least to Montmagny) rather than highway 20. This older road by the river takes you through many interesting villages and sights.
- You will be traveling through country where fishing was the most important industry—but logging was also a valuable supplement to incomes.

Logging was often conducted in the winter when farming and fishing was difficult. Teams of loggers would head to camps in the woods, cut down the trees and pile them onto the ice of the rivers. In the spring, the ice would melt and the logs would float down to the mouth of the river where they would be formed in log booms and taken to the mills.

The loggers working to form the log booms (and sometimes having to break up log jams) were famous for their ability to jump from log to log and sometimes balance themselves as they floated down the river.

This became one of the games at logging festivals and even a famous song and video. You can see a lovely video via the following link. <https://youtu.be/fNiLB1Ju5J8>

- Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens, 30 min East of Rimouski. Check out the clever sculptures.

Rimouski to Cap-St-Ignace, 2.5 hr.

- Kamouraska (Céline and Richard grew up here. We stayed at their family cabin one time. Do you remember walking on the muck when the tide went out, JP?)
- St-Jean-Port-Joli (Check out the art and wood carvings in the various galleries along Route 132. We have a few carvings from this region.)
- L'Islet-sur-Mer
- Note how the farmers' fields are long and narrow as they extend from the river. They are laid out very differently than farms you saw on the western prairies. Why do you think they are long and narrow here? Can you think of any advantages it would have for neighbours and villages?

- As you travel along the river road you will notice that the land rises once or twice to form higher levels along the way. How do you think these geological features were formed?

Cap-St-Ignace to Berthier-sur-Mer, 30 min

- JP will have some places to show you around Cap-St-Ignace, like where we lived, his school, Daegan's school, Manoir Gamache (400 years old), etc.
- Montmagny is where we went for our weekly shopping, and regular music festivals. You can check out the style of music in this region via the following links.
- Berthier-sur-Mer: Boat to Grosse-Isle (Irish Memorial National Historic Site, 6 hr cruise and visit. May 18 to Oct 9, 2022.)

Berthier-sur-Mer to Québec City, 1 hr

- There is a good view of the long narrow farms as you look out from St-Michel to Île-d'Orléans across the river.
- I presume that you have many places to explore, JP. These might include the citadel, the walled city, the lower town, the buskers near the Chateau Frontenac, the boardwalk by the Chateau Frontenac, and the many tourist shops.
- The tree with the "cannonball" has been removed (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/cannonball-tree-quebec-city-removed-1.5957423>), unfortunately, but the location is probably marked (Rue St-Louis). Check out the Stuart McLean story before your trip to Québec City: ("A Trip to Québec" in "Planet Boy" album).

Québec City to Ile-Bigras, 3 hrs

- You will be able to park/hang out with the Jemus's or Madeleine. The Jones have moved.

Ile-Bigras to Upper Canada Village, 1.5 hrs

- You will be very familiar with this destination. There are a number of campgrounds near the Village (Morrisburg). We have stayed at one along the Long Sault Parkway just east of Ingleside.

UCV to Ottawa, 1 hr

- You have a choice of Highway 12>5 or 31>43 to make this trip. They are both about the same in terms of time.
- There are a number of camping spots nearby, but we don't have any suggestions about that. If they are full, don't forget about places across the river near Gatineau.
- You will have some favourite spots in Ottawa (museum of technology, civilization, War, Natural History, Parliament, etc.), but we recently discovered the Diefenbunker tour that was delightful. It's just outside of Ottawa (west) near the village of Carp. They even have an "escape room" experience now (<https://diefenbunker.ca/escape-room/>).

Ottawa to Sudbury, 5.5 hrs

- Depending on your timing, you could aim for North Bay (4 hrs) instead.
- Just before you get to North Bay, you enter the lands designated by the Robinson-Huron Treaty (61) that was signed in 1850 (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/robinson-huron-treaty-61-1850/>).
- We usually stop in to Science North when in Sudbury. It specialises in geology, mining, dinosaurs, etc. Lots of hands-on. See: <http://montreal-or-bust.blogspot.com/2012/08/sudbury-north.html>
- You might also consider a stop at the "Big Nickel" for a photo—or even take a mine tour if your timing allows. Mining is and will continue to be a major part of Canadian history and future. Exposure to its various forms at the "rock face" level is valuable. There are a number of open pit mines in BC, but in-ground mines are more difficult to visit. You can find potash mines on the prairies.

Sudbury to Lake Superior Provincial Park (Katherine Cove), 5.5 hrs

- Sault Ste Marie is about 3.5 hrs from Sudbury, but you may decide to push on to Lake Superior Provincial Park.
- Just after Sault Ste Marie, you enter the land of the Robinson-Superior Treaty (60), signed in 1850 (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/robinson-superior-treaty-60-1850/>).
- There is camping in the Park with options also in Wawa.
- Katherine Cove is near Agawa Bay near the eastern entrance to the provincial park. It's a great place to see what tons of ice can do to mountains. About 500 million years ago the mountains were covered by thick glaciers that scraped off the peaks and exposed the base rock we see today. The rock is still rebounding from the melting of the ice. The Canadian Shield forms a huge "U" shape around Hudson Bay.

You will be travelling on it all the way to Kenora. I can leave it to you to tell the story of "skateboarding the Shield", JP. Maybe your kids can have their turn.

- This section of the trip over Lake Superior is very scenic, but be ready for cool and sometimes foggy weather, even in the summer.

Lake Superior Provincial Park to Thunder Bay, 5.5 hrs

- There are a number of sights to consider along this part of the route, so you may wish to break it up with an extra overnight, or time your lunches and snacks to accommodate them. Some of them are below.
- Give Elsie a pat as you pass by Schrieber and Pays Plat in memory of our Westy breakdown with Samantha (see: <http://montreal-or-bust.blogspot.com/2012/08/a-terrible-horrible-no-good-very-bad-day.html>) and <http://montreal-or-bust.blogspot.com/2012/08/a-better-day.html>).
- Check out the large sculpture of Paddle-To-The-Sea that is outside the tourist information/picnic pullout at Nipigon. For fans of the book, Nipigon is the point at which PTTS entered Lake Superior from his starting point in Lake Nipigon, just north of the town. You have also been near some of his other spots (Chicago, Montréal, Québec City, Sault-Ste-Marie, and Port-aux-Basques) and will soon be in Thunder Bay. (https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?hl=en&vpsrc=0&ctz=360&ie=UTF8&msa=0&t=m&z=5&source=embed&mid=1c40YIkvT9EHjSul_1CvfoDPi8vc&ll=45.30999683507058%2C-73.99590108258033)
- You will get a warm welcome at the Belluz Farm just outside of Thunder Bay (<http://belluzfarms.on.ca/visit/>, 752 Candy Mountain Drive, Slate River ON P7J 0C2). Don and Claire have moved into the "Grandparent" house. Kevin (their eldest son) is now running the farm with his wife Jody and their two children Lily and Finn. Scott (Kevin's younger brother) is now in Hollywood. Lies may find some exciting marketing and event options from Jody since she seems to be the driving force of the farm expansion activities. Your buddies on the farm were Kevin and Scott. Don and Claire are your best contacts for planning connections (donclaire@belluzfarms.on.ca; 807-475-5173). <http://www.billreimer.net/welcome/personal/family/moving-to-bc-july-2020/qc2bc08>

Thunder Bay to Kenora, 5.5 hrs

- Plan a short picnic stop at Raleigh Falls (about 25 km west of Ignace). Since it is identified as a rest area only, it's easy to miss, so keep an eye out for it. The access is south of the highway with picnic tables and parking. The falls are a short walk from the parking and there are picnic tables near the waterfall. We enjoyed swimming in the creek and (if the water level was appropriate) climbing in behind the falls. It's a great break on the TB to Kenora trip.
- Kenora is beautiful lake country with plenty of tourist facilities and activities. It should be easy to find a spot to stop and easy access to swimming. (see <http://www.billreimer.net/welcome/personal/family/moving-to-bc-july-2020/qc2bc09>)
- The land from just after Thunder Bay to half-way between Kenora and Winnipeg is within Treaty 3 - established in 1873 with 28 First Nation Communities (Anishinaabe) and the British (<http://gct3.ca/our-nation/>).

Kenora to Steinbach, 2 hrs

- In our 2020 blog post, we referred to this stretch of the trip as a Great Transformation (<http://www.billreimer.net/welcome/personal/family/moving-to-bc-july-2020/qc2bc09>). We love it, because the landscape changes from Canadian Shield boreal forests and lakes to prairie scrub and flat grasslands—within about an hour.
- You could consider travelling to Winnipeg via Steinbach and the Mennonite Heritage Village (<https://mennoniteheritagevillage.com/>). It is a nice village with plenty of working activities. It's a bit like Upper Canada Village with a Mennonite focus. The windmill is a special treat.

Steinbach to Winnipeg, 1 hr

- I expect that you have plenty of options for your time in Winnipeg since you spent some time there. However, I will mention two items that you may wish to include.
- Stella Mission (470 Stella Ave., <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/allpeoplesmissionstella.shtml>) and Dr. Jim Shaver Memorial Park (44 Barber St., <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/shaverpark.shtml>)

Winnipeg to the Qu'Appelle Valley, 5 hrs

- I am suggesting this route because it takes you by a number of interesting spots along the way. These include the following.

- A visit to Sidney, MB where Fran lived during her early school days. The two-room schoolhouse is still there with a plaque outside, the church where Jack preached is in the town and the manse where they lived is right next door. We enjoyed stopping into the general store/cafe in town and looking at the old photos and mementos from the early days of the town. The owners were quite interested in our stories as well (<http://montreal-or-bust.blogspot.com/2012/07/more-family-history.html>). Jack had a three-point charge at the time, including Sidney, Austin, and Carberry. Many of his stories from that time can be found in the newspaper articles he produced named "Sidney Chips" in the Carberry News-Express (<http://billreimer.net/Shaver/Documents/SidneyChips.htm>). They are worth a read because of the regional and personal history they reveal.
- Brandon (I think Lies mentioned she knew some friends there)
- Winnipeg to Brandon is land under Treaty 1, negotiated in 1871 (<https://treaty1.ca/>). It was signed by seven First Nations and the Canadian government. Its interpretation is still under negotiation today.
- A short side-trip to Rocanville, SK where Mum grew up on the Dumville farm. Many of her stories and memories are formed by her time there (<http://billreimer.net/personal/documents/LilStories02.pdf>). It is a short drive north of Moosomin on highway 8. The town is marked by a large oil can. The Dumville farm is close to town. We took a visit there on our trip with Samantha in 2012 (<http://montreal-or-bust.blogspot.com/2012/07/carberry.html>).
- A good time to read/listen to "Who Has Seen the Wind" by W.O. Mitchell after a walk on the open prairie. There is an audible version available.
- A trip to the Qu'Appelle valley. This is a dramatic feature of the eastern prairie since it cuts through the flat land—transforming it from grass to lakes and small woodlands. It was a great surprise to me when we first drove there, since the deep cut of the valley was not apparent until we were right at the edge. On our westward trip, Fran and I chose to head north to the valley on highway 201 since it goes through Kahkewistahaw First Nation territory. After reaching the valley, we turned west on highway 247 to a campground at Sunset Beach (Crooked Lake Provincial Park).
- From Brandon to just west of the MB-SK border you will be travelling in Treaty 2 territory (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/treaty-2/> and <http://fnt2t.com/>).

Qu'Appelle Valley to Batoche National Historic Site, 4.5 hrs

- This route takes you to the site of a famous battle of the North-West Rebellion. The First Nations and Métis Peoples were overwhelmed by the numbers and firepower of the national forces and led to the surrender of Louis Riel, Poundmaker, and Big Bear over the following months (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Batoche). There is a memorial site established at the battleground. The story of the Métis, Louis Riel, the North-West Rebellion, the associated activities of Indigenous Peoples, and the current apologies of the Canadian Government are worth exploring. The Temptations of Big Bear by Rudy Wiebe is an interesting (fictional) exploration of Big Bear's dilemmas as he attempted to sustain his Cree community.
- I'm not sure of camping spots in the area, but I expect it will be easy to find some—even those with swimming spots since you will have travelled north of the grasslands and back into the boreal forest.
- This section of the trip will take you through Treaty 4 (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/treaty-4/> and Treaty 6 Territories (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/treaty-6-1876/>).

Batoche to Edmonton, 6 hrs

- The most direct route is via North Battleford then highway 16 to Edmonton. The NRE had a conference in Vermilion. Vegreville was settled by a large number of Ukrainians. The Saskatchewan part of the region is most likely where Greatpa Reimer spent summers with his family grading roads. He worked for various municipalities and counties in the region.
- I hear that the West Edmonton Mall is on your list of sites. Give yourself an opportunity to explore the river park that gives the city such a lovely natural feel.

Edmonton to Grande Prairie, 5 hrs

- Boreal Forest
- From Edmonton to the Yukon and NWT you will be travelling in Treaty 8 territory (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/treaty-8/> and <http://treaty8.bc.ca/treaty-8-agreement/>).

Grande Prairie to Fort Nelson, 6.5 hrs

- Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum: Wembley (25km west of Grande Prairie)

- Check out Dawson Creek and Fort St John on the way
- Dawson Creek is the beginning of the Alaska Highway. There is some interesting black history re. its construction (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/black-soldiers-alaskan-highway-bc-1.6746754>).
- See <https://rvalaskacampgrounds.com/alaska-highways/alaska-highway/> for information regarding the Alaska highway for your trip up and/or down.

Fort Nelson to Watson Lake, 6 hrs

- <https://www.watsonlake.ca/>

Watson Lake to Whitehorse, 5 hrs

- West of Watson Lake you will be travelling in Treaty 11 (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/treaty-11/>) territory and the land of the Teslin-Tlingit Council Final Agreements (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/teslin-tingit-council-final-agreements/> and <https://www.ttc-teslin.com/>). Closer to Whitehorse, you will be in Kwanlin Dun territory (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/kwanlin-dun-2/> and <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100030607/1542805716353#Kw>).
- Option:
 - On your way up to Inuvik, you could take the northern highway (#4 from Watson Lake by Faro to Carmacks) Faro was once the largest open pit lead-zinc mine in the world. The time on this route is about 7 hrs from Watson Lake to Carmacks.
 - On your return, you could take the route from Carmacks to Watson Lake via Whitehorse and Carcross/Tagish. Details are below in the return trip.
 - I have laid out the latter.

Whitehorse to Dawson City, 6 hrs

- You will travel through several First Nations territories during the section of the trip: the Champagne and Aishihik (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/champagne-aishihik-2/> and <https://cafn.ca/>), Little Salmon/Carmacks (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/little-salmon-carmacks-2/> and <https://www.lscfn.ca/>), Selkirk (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/selkirk-2/>), Na-cho Nyak Dun (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/na-cho-nyak-dun-2/> and <https://www.nndfn.com/>), and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/trondek-hwechin-2/> and <https://www.trondek.ca/>).

Dawson City to Fort McPherson, 8 hrs

- Dawson City is the southern end of the Dempster Highway to Tuktoyaktuk. Check the NWT information about the trip, preparations, and what to check out along the way (<https://spectacularnwt.com/what-to-do/road-trips/dempster-highway-to-arctic-ocean>). Make sure you have a full-sized spare, water, and adequate gas.
- Note that there will be plenty of places without phone service, so download your information and pull out your paper maps.
- You will also begin to see sections of taiga and tundra. What is different in these two regions? How are they different than the boreal forest?
- The section will take you through the land of Na-cho Nyak Dun (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/na-cho-nyak-dun-2/> and <https://www.nndfn.com/>), Tetlit Gwich'in (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/tetlit-gwichin-2/>), and the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/gwichin-comprehensive-land-claims-agreement/>).

Fort McPherson to Inuvik, 3 hrs

- This section takes you through the territory of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/inuvialuit-final-agreement/> and <https://www.inuvialuitland.com/>). Their territory map can be seen via <https://native-land.ca/maps/territories/inuvialuit/>. Check out their offices and activities when you get to Inuvik. They have been busy with many interesting initiatives in the region.
- I was fascinated by the many ways in which the town had to accommodate living on permafrost.
 - How does the hospital deal with the permafrost?
 - How about the igloo church?
 - How are plumbing and sewage managed?
 - What about the houses and buildings?
 - What about the recreation centre?
- What did the community do with the old hockey arena when they built the new recreation centre?

- Check out the prices for fruits and vegetables in the local store.
- Here's a project we failed to do when we were in Inuvik. We only got about 2 of the 4 photos. Find a place that is reasonably flat, visibly open, with a nice background. The main point is that it is easy to see shadows of someone who is standing in it—in all directions. Then plan to visit the place 4 times during a 24 cycle (about 6 hrs apart). At each visit, have a person stand in the same spot, and take a photo of them from about the same place, with about the same spread of field. The result should be 4 photos with the shadow stretching in 4 different directions. There are only a few places on earth where this is possible. You may even consider doing it more than 4 times or doing it in a sequence over the 24 hours that could be put in a nice "video" sequence or other artistic fashion. You may also come up with a way to show different people. It may be convenient at this point that you have 4 kids!
- When you are in Inuvik, check in the local tourist centre (I can't remember if there is one), city hall, or grocery store for the certificate confirming that you have crossed the Arctic circle. This is a standard feature, and a nice souvenir. Fran and I have ours.
- Make sure you visit the local store and take some photos of the prices for vegetables, fruit, milk, etc. Make a list of items that you would typically buy on your weekly grocery run, then find out what each of the items costs if you lived in Inuvik. You can compare it with the prices of the same "basket" when you get back home. I would be very interested to see the results!

Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk, NT, 2.5 hrs

- What's a pingo? What produces it?
- Find the entrance to the Tuk cold storage location. How is it kept cold?

Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik, 2.5 hrs

Inuvik to Fort McPherson, 3 hrs

Fort McPherson to Dawson City, YT, 8 hrs

- Klondike Gold Rush in Dawson City

Dawson City to Whitehorse, 6 hrs

Whitehorse to Carcross, 1 hr

- I greatly enjoyed my visit to Carcross many years ago. They had just regained their right to self governance and were busy figuring out their family policy. See: <https://www.ctfn.ca/>

Carcross to Watson Lake, 4.5 hrs

Watson Lake to Dease Lake, BC, 3.5 hrs

Dease Lake to Iskut, 1 hr

Iskut to Meziadin Junction, 3 hr

Meziadin Junction to Hazelton, 2.5 hr

- Check out Seven Sisters Provincial Park en route?
- If you add a side-trip to Prince Rupert, you will see where I spent a summer in 1966 working at the Friendship Centre for the United Church. The road from Hazelton to Prince Rupert is about 3 hrs. There were several old canneries along the Skeena River. I think I have shown you some of the photos I took about the living conditions at the canneries. See also <https://youtu.be/91MEVgHOjiw>.

Hazelton to Smithers, 1 hr

Smithers to Houston, 1 hr

Houston to Prince George, 3.5 hrs

Prince George to Quesnel, 1.5 hr

- Sidetrip to Barkerville? 1 hr from Quesnel. Simon Yates' brother lived here.

Quesnel to Williams Lake, 1.5 hr

Williams Lake to 100 Mile House, 1 hr

- Gary Colin's relatives near Lac la Hache

100 Mile House to Cache Creek, 1 hr

Cache Creek to Hell's Gate, 2 hr

Hell's Gate to Fort Langley, 2 hr

- Check Alexandra bridge (10 minutes south of Hell's Gate)
- Check Spuzzum (5 minutes south of Alexandra Bridge)
- Check Yale museum (15 minutes south of Spuzzum)