

# Canada - From Calgary to Saskatoon

This is a review of my stay in Canada. I've been there with my friend Barbara - who was kind enough to take me with her - and we stayed at her relatives Ellen and Jeff's house - who were kind enough to let me stay with them. We went from August 8 to August 28, 1999. Some things we did might be missing, but that's just due to my bad memory and is not being left out because I didn't enjoy it....

## August 8 [Sunday]:

Barbara's parents drove us to Frankfurt airport. We left home at about 8am, our plane was scheduled for 2pm, so we were much too early and had to wait till we could finally check in. Of course, it's better to be early than late, and I do like airports. :-)

In the plane they showed the movies "*The Other Sister*" and "*October Sky*" and both of them were rather boring. The food was bad, too, but that's typical for airplanes. I enjoyed the flight nonetheless, since I was sitting on a window and could stare at the clouds for about 9.5 hours, and I love seeing the clouds from above. It looks as if you could walk on them, as if they were a beautiful and soft matter. I'm not surprised that it's said that angels are living there. We arrived in Calgary at about 3:35pm and we did not take our flight to Saskatoon then, since Jeff and Ellen were going to pick us up in Calgary already. It wouldn't have cost less if we hadn't booked the flight to Saskatoon, by the way, that's why we didn't bother cancel it. So they picked us up on Calgary airport and that day we went to eat pizza at Earl's. I love pizza, and it was really good. But I couldn't eat the whole pizza so I did something we don't usually do in Germany.. I got a doggy bag for the rest of it. :-) Then we drove to a Bed and Breakfast, "Springbank Bed & Breakfast", and at around 4:20pm made ourselves ready for bed. We didn't sleep immediately, but much too early anyway.

## August 9 [Monday]:

At 6:30am I woke up and couldn't sleep anymore. Barbara was awake, too, and she had the same problem. So I decided to eat the rest of last day's pizza Mageritha - I would have shared it, but Barbara didn't want any pizza, so I ate it all myself. I always wanted to do that, eat pizza of the day before. That's what they do in the movies, that's what I imagine my life to be like when I'm 24... Well, different people - different dreams. :-)

About two hours later we had breakfast and then headed off to the **Heritage Park**. There's a lot of old houses and people that dress like they're from maybe 100 years ago. Just for tourists, they don't really live like that for real (I assume... :->). It was interesting there. (It was 14\$ for kids.)

While we've been to the Heritage Park, an oil refinery exploded in Calgary. We could see a big, dark grey cloud rise. At first it looked like a thunderstorm cloud, but Ellen remarked that one of those would not rise from the ground. It was in the news later, all the time. Later that day we looked around in Calgary, went to a mall there and I bought some postcards. We had supper at an Italian restaurant and I had Canelloni Florentina for 14\$. It was too much for me, though, but this time I didn't take it home in a doggy bag.

## August 10 [Tuesday]:

That day we drove to Moraine Lake in **Jasper National Park**, and I took lots of pictures of it since it's got such a nice blue color. We also walked along its shore a bit, but not very far. Jeff was quite ill and he didn't come with us. Afterwards we drove to **Lake Louise**, which has also a funny blueish color, but not as nice as **Moraine Lake**. It was raining when we came there, but then stopped again pretty soon. I bought some more postcards there. Later we drove to a Bed And Breakfast in Hinton where we stayed that night and the next.



**Image 1 – Jasper National Park**



**Image 2 – Lake Louise**



**Image 3 – Moraine Lake**

And I forgot where or when, but somewhere we went in a restaurant and I had a vegetarian pizza. They had their pizza in medium and large, so my logical question to the waiter was "Why do you have medium and large, but no small?" He said he thought they served small pizza for lunch or something, but couldn't really answer my question. Whatever, the medium pizza was too big for me, but I resisted a doggy bag again.

**August 11 [Wednesday]:**

On Wednesday we drove to the **Columbia Ice Fields**, a **big glacier**. It's interesting to see how big it is now and how much bigger it used to be 20 years ago.... Now do we have global warming or what? Anyway, another interesting thing is to see all those signs *Danger! There can be big cracks in the glacier, and you can't see them and they are really deep and just a few years ago we had to rescue somebody who fell in, so stay away!!* ... and then you look up to the ice and it's full of tourists. Well, I guess the rescue team is bored anyway if they can't rescue anyone every now and then, so... there's probably a good thing to everything.



**Image 4 – The Columbia Ice Fields**

Then we drove to the **Athabasca Falls**, a very big waterfall. I like waterfalls a lot, they're so... so... wet and waterfally... :-> Then we've been to the **Hot Springs**. I don't like swimming much, you know, but what can you do if everybody else wants to go?.. So, well, I have to admit that I really enjoyed it there. The water is really warm there (I guess that's why they call them **HOT** springs... :-]) and then there's also a pool with cold(er) water. Barbara and I were really brave and went into that cold one twice. But twice was totally enough and we were afraid we might get a heart attack if we'd go in there once more, so.... :-) I had Spaghetti for lunch and a burger for supper, by the way.



**Image 5 – Athabasca Falls**

### **August 12 [Thursday]:**

We left the Bed and Breakfast at 10:40am and then drove all the way to Edmonton. There we stayed at a Bed and Breakfast again and since Jeff has relatives in Edmonton we even got invited for dinner. They are very nice people. After dinner Bernice (Jeff's aunt) went to the Edmonton Mall with us. It's the biggest mall in the world and, wow, it IS big. We looked around there a bit - you know, checking out where the CD stores are... - and then decided to go to the wave indoor swimming pool the next day. It's probably not called that, but it's an indoor swimming pool with lots of slides and a pool where they make waves very often.

### **August 13 [Friday]:**

In the morning we drove to Jeff's relatives again, since Bernice could get us tickets for the *Waterpark* and the *Deep Sea Adventure* cheaper than they're usually. That was really very nice of her. Each ticket cost 12\$, by the way. So, Bernice and Carolyn (her daughter) drove to the mall with us (Barbara, Ellen and me) then and then they went their own way. I think they were looking for a dress for the bride's mother, since Carolyn is going to marry in December. Anyway, we then went to the crevace (or whatever that thing was called) where you could look at fish and other animals (a turtle, a spider, leguans,..), and then we got ready for the submarine ride. Those are small submarines that dive around in the big pool they have there, so you can look at the sharks and other fish they have there. But just as we waited for the submarine, Barbara suddenly dropped her ticket into the pool. She immediately started with lots of "Oh my God!"s and nearly panicked.... Typical... :-> So she sent Ellen to explain what happened and finally she got a small piece of paper allowing her to come with us anyway... Lucky her.

The last thing that was included in the *Deep Sea Adventure* was the dolphin show. Barbara waited outside. It was a nice show, and I wished it was my job to train those dolphins and play with them. I always do that when I see a dolphin show. I just love the way they move so smoothly, the way they seem to really appreciate their trainers and all that. I like those animals a lot.

After the show we went around the mall a lot. Before the dolphin show we had been to the CD store for, let's say.. eight minutes maybe. I was looking for Joan Jett & the Blackheart's *Good Music*, but they didn't have it. They had ordered it, though, but it wasn't going to arrive anytime soon. So, after the show we then went to lots and lots of clothes stores. I don't really like them. Clothes are boring. Well, not really, just looking at them in stores is really boring. Barbara and Ellen like that, though, and I didn't complain. I was just nagging Barbara a bit, saying "Look! You HAVE to have that!" to everything I saw. :-) She's got a totally different taste than I do.

After running around in clothes stores for quite some time now (and yes, Barbara and Ellen DID buy some stuff), we finally met with Jeff and then went to the *Waterpark* together. And though I usually don't like swimming much, it was a lot of fun. They have so many slides there. You have to wait in line for quite some time, but it's really a lot of fun to go down the slides. They also have a hot pool there and other things and we stayed for about four hours, I think.

So, we came out of the *Waterpark* again and you might think that people are tired after that, but it seems like some women can't get enough of going shopping. Jeff, Ellen and Barbara went in a Jeans shop then, I think, and I waited outside (I've got enough Jeans already...) and they've been in there for quite a long time, so some guy of the shop came to me finally and asked "Are you having fun?" I said *yes*, I think. Maybe it wasn't true, but I didn't want to lie, I was just a bit confused by his question, so... He asked me where I was from and I said Germany and so he tried his great German skills on me, like "Guten Tag" and something else I didn't understand. Whatever, when he went away again I decided to wait further away of the shop. I didn't want to annoy that guy, you know, and I don't like people talking to me because

they think I'm scaring their customers or because they think I'm a shoplifter or whatever. Besides I felt a bit stupid. So, finally they went out of that shop again, looked at lots of other clothes shops as well, then Barbara bought a backpack and finally looked for another Jeans. Or, well, I think the other Jeans she tried didn't fit, so... Well, there I was in a big store, forced to wait for someone who wants to get a Jeans. Is there something more boring? Hmm, probably yes, but... well, usually I don't mind things like that, but after some hours it gets boring, you know... So I said something like "Maybe we should separate and meet again later?" After all there were probably some music shops in the mall that just waited to get checked out by me... and I wanted to get a capo... Well, but they said it wouldn't take long anymore so I continued waiting. I was looking bored, though, and then Barbara said "I was bored at the CD shops, too!" Alright, I guess we have to punish 10 minutes in a CD shop with 2 hours of clothes shops.. that sounds fair... NOT! Anyways, she finally got her jeans. I was kidding and said to Jeff: "People like her shouldn't get credit cards." :-]

### **August 14 [Saturday]:**

We left for Saskatoon at about 10 am and before that the woman at the bed and breakfast gave Barbara the recipe for her cinnamon buns. Barbara told her before that that was the best she ever ate in her whole life, that's why.

### **August 15 [Sunday]:**

On that day we met Jeff's parents, Bill and Lorraine. They are very nice people.

### **August 16 [Monday]:**

On Monday Jeff and Ellen invited Nikki and Stephanie over for supper. They used to be students of his. When they came they gave Barbara and me each a Canadian flag, what I think was really cool of them. Then we had a little bit of small talk, and I was pretty nervous (as I guess I often am when I'm meeting new people) and then we had Spaghetti with some cheese sauce (since Nikki is a vegetarian). It was really interesting to listen to their conversation with Jeff. They talked about books and about why everything is supposed to have a meaning in them, and about why Jeff is hunting (just for food, not for the sake of killing). I think I didn't say a single word during the meal, and neither did Barbara. I just didn't say anything because I rather like listening. And what they were talking about was just so interesting, really. I could've listened do them for hours. We had a Saskatoonberry pie for desert, with vanilla ice cream. Yummy! :-)

Then we decided to go to a drive-in movie. That is, Steph asked whether we'd like that, and we said yes. I mean, I wouldn't have thought of that.. So, we were getting ready for that, and I started to understand what Steph meant when she said "It's not my car, but I drive it like it's mine." :-] I love her way of driving, I really do :-) We stopped at Nikki's and Barbara and I got to know her family and their nice dog. Man, what a nice dog that was. He was just sitting there and I petted him, and everytime I stopped he looked at me with those big eyes and I couldn't resist petting him some more. So, well, then Steph drove us to the drive-in movie theater, but on the way it started to rain very very heavily. It had to rain, of course. It didn't rain the whole day, but after all we wanted to go to a drive-in movie, so it HAD to rain. If we had decided to make a picnic somewhere it would've rained, too. And I wouldn't be surprised if Steph had washed the car that day... :-/

Whatever, we decided to go to a Rainbow cinema instead. They show movies again before they're released on video, so they cost only 2.50\$. I wish we had something like that here. We watched *Never Been Kissed*, starring Drew Barrymore, wich was okay. But before that we had maybe one and a half hour to kill, and we did that by driving around the town. First we went to a second hand CD store, "Tramp's", and I bought 3 CDs there: "*Good Music*" by Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, "*Whaler*" by Sophie B. Hawkins" and a CD by "Weird Al" Yankovic.

Hmm, now that I mention it, I think we've also been to the mall in Saskatoon that day (the Mall at Lawson Heights), since I also bought Sarah McLachlan's "*Surfacing*" CD that day. Anyway, they then showed us the university and Dairy Queen, where I ate a Cappucino Blizzard. Man, that was good! :-)

By the way, she told me that her driver's license cost 25\$. Alrighty, mine cost just about 97 times as much.... If I had only known that before...

After the movie they drove us home and Nikki said she'd be home the next day as well, but then she'd fly to Seattle, and I thought Steph said something that she'd be home all the time, but unfortunately that was the last time we saw Steph. Sad, she's funny :-)

### **August 17 [Tuesday]:**

After breakfast I called Nikki (Barbara was too shy to do that :-)), but she was still asleep. She called back after she got up, though, and she also tried to reach Steph, but she wasn't home. We decided to go downtown and Jeff picked her up and then drove us there. She still had to arrange something for her flight the next day, and afterwards she showed us around in town. I went to all the second hand CD stores, and we also went to some other stores. When we've been to the mall it was.. well, a little awkward. You know, there's Barbara, who I always thought could spend all her money on clothes or other stuff, but no, she decided she didn't need anything. So Nikki led us to a mall and we didn't want to buy anything... I mean, I myself didn't mind at all just walking around, I just think Barbara was a bit bored and maybe Nikki was, too. I mean, I guess she didn't quite know what to do with us guys. So then we walked to a park, a nice park with a fountain, and we sat there for quite some time. We talked a little and I really enjoyed it in this park. Call me lazy, but I wouldn't have minded sitting there till the sunset....

After some time we went to the library, and then to the place where Jeff was going to pick us up. Well, and that was the last time we saw Nikki. Did I mention yet that I think she's a pretty nice and funny girl?

We drove home again and I put on some pretty chic clothes because we were going to have supper with Jeff's sister, her husband and two kids and Jeff's parents. I had Spaghetti Bolognese and - just in case you didn't already guess it - it was too much for me. Bill paid for the food "because it's the last Tuesday of the week" :-] That's a good one, I will remember it! Afterwards we went to another place to have a desert. I had a third of a piece of Cheesecake, and it was really good.

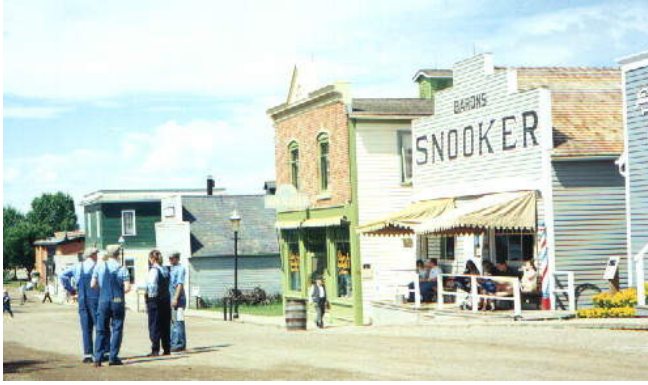
Then we went over to Bill and Lorraine's house for a while and after that we drove home again. Barbara also accompanied Ellen when she had to go to the airport due to her job, but I stayed at home and went to bed early or something. Well, not really, but I can't remember what exactly I did... I guess too much food causes memory loss or something... ;-)

### **August 18 [Wednesday]:**

I don't remember what we did during the day, but in the afternoon we ate Elkburgers. To me they tasted a little fishy, but of course one can't say that because everyone immediately tells you that that's impossible. As if I wouldn't know....

### **August 19 [Thursday]:**

We went to **Wanuskewin Heritage Park**. It's about the way Indians used to live. In tipis and things like that. We also saw a Grass Dancer there, that was quite interesting. For dinner we had Burritos (or Wraps, whatever you want to call them), that was really good, and I don't remember when that was, but we had Blizzard ice cream at Dairy Queens. I had a Banana Split Blizzard, VERY good. :-)



**Image 6 – Wanuskewin Heritage Park**

**August 20 [Friday]:**

That day we visited another aunt of Jeff's. She lives at a very nice lake and we spent the day at that lake. She made lunch for us and then gave us some chairs, then we drove to the shore. I was lying there all the time, reading in my *Babylon 5: Voices* book.

When we came back to Jeff's aunt, Betty, we also got to know her daughter Camille. She made drinks for us that consisted of strawberry and rum. There was much more rum in them than I thought, but I was brave and 'ate' (it was frozen) it anyway, and no, I did not get drunk. I don't like alcohol, you know. Well, and when Camille then asked us whether we'd want to go sea-doing I just answered "Yes, yes, yes." Maybe that was the rum messing with my brain... you know, usually I just say yes once.... Anyways, we then went sea-doing. Barbara and Camille first. That looked really wild, you know. Seems like Camille knew what she was doing. Well, then they came back and Camille handed me her life-vest and I jumped on the sea-do right behind Barbara. Man, that was a lot of fun. We changed seats once, then Barb always told me not to drive that narrow curves, but she told me that Camille always drove over her own waves and I wanted to try that. After a while we drove back then, I thought it'd be impolite to drive with that thing too long. But when we came back they said we could drive again later if we wanted to. :-) We then got to know Brittany (and I'm terribly sorry if I spelled that wrong), Betty's other daughter. She was very nice, just like Camille and the rest of that family. After supper - they made steaks, corn, salad and potatoes - we went sea-doing again and really had a blast. I wish I had one of those things myself... well, and a lake close to our house... well, and while we're at it, a lot of money wouldn't be bad either :-) This time when we came back we got to know Randy, Betty's husband. A nice guy, by the way. Oh, and I got cheesecake for desert. Yummy! :-)

The way home was pretty long. It seemed longer to me than the way when we came, but I guess it was just the same length :-) I enjoyed it, though, since there was a beautiful moon I could stare at.



**Image 7 – Barbara and me, sea-doing**

**August 21 [Saturday]:**

We went to Superstore to get our films developed and then also went to a mall, and that evening the Carlsons were over for supper. They're friends of Jeff and Ellen's (who would have guessed?) and, well, they're originally from Sweden. Jeff Carlson was quite surprised when I told them that EVERYTHING is dubbed in Germany... Barbara and I went to a playground with the Carlson kids (they're two Carlson kids) and afterwards we played cards with them.

**August 22 [Sunday]:**

We picked our photos up from Superstore and then drove to McNally Robinson, a book store, where I bought souvenirs for my parents and a *Cult Times Special* with Xena on the cover and - as they describe it - *50 Feisty Fantasy Females* inside. I think it's not good that Xena is only number three (behind Buffy and Seven of Nine), but it's a pretty nice magazine anyway. :-)

You know what? It's really terrible, my whole room is full of those little yellow pieces of paper that tell me "You have used your credit card!!"....

That day we were home alone in the afternoon, and we decided to go to the mall at Lawson Heights. Right around the corner at Dairy Queen's. So, we saw Dairy Queen and we walked and walked and... after 50 minutes we've been pretty close to the airport, the mall still wasn't there. There wasn't even a sidewalk where we walked! So, we sorta lost our way... It's not that we followed someone... Haha! (Sorry, that's probably not funny for people who don't know Sophie B. Hawkin's "Lose your way"... hmm, maybe it's not funny anyway, but it's late, so bear with me...:-))

Well, we walked back then, stopped at Dairy Queen's to have a Blizzard and walked 'home'. It would've been right around the corner of DQ, we just walked around the wrong corner, you see...

**August 23 [Monday]:**

That day we visited a friend of Ellen's, Moni, who happens to be from Germany. We've been at her house for quite a while, then we went back, and they gave Jeff and Ellen lots of apples from their tree. Jeff made pies out of them when we came home.

That day Barbara cooked. Lithuanian dumplings. It's made with lots of ground beef, and I have to admit that it was good. After dinner Bill and Lorraine came over, they're really nice people.

**August 24 [Tuesday]:**

I tried again to walk to the mall that day. Barbara stayed home sunbathing, but I'm rather sunshy and don't like tanning at all... so, this time I even found the mall. It was cool to walk there, listening to my favorite music on my walkman and just walking. I didn't really know that that could be so much fun. I stayed at the mall for about 2 hours and 45 minutes and the way to and from the mall was 30 minutes each. So, I didn't realize that I was away long, but they said they were already worrying a little about me. Sorry, that wasn't intended. For supper Barb and I have been invited over to Bill and Lorraine. They made stuffed peppers and that was good. Usually I don't like peppers much, but those were really good. Oh, and Bill likes some really good music: Madonna, k.d. lang, ...

After supper Bill showed us his garage where he's pursuing his hobby: making cabinets and other cool stuff out of wood. It's really amazing what he can do. I had to think of the few things I already made out of wood... I was never really good at that... But he's perfect, really cool.

Then we set on the deck and talked a little. Well, to be exact \*they\* talked. I'm often rather quiet and only sometimes pretty talkative... so, if I wasn't asked something I just sat there and listened. Nothing special for me, I really like that, but Barb complained about it. Well, she

didn't really complain, she just asked something like "Why am I talking all the time? How about you talk for a while?" But I just didn't have anything to say.... A little later Ellen and Jeff came back to pick us up and we just looked at some photos Bill took in Germany and later they gave us those nice books about Saskatchewan and even signed them :-). How very nice. :-)

### **August 25 [Wednesday]:**

On Wednesday we went to see the Broadway, where I finally bought a capo. When I told Barb that I wanted to get one she first asked what that is and when I told her she had that look in her face and said "You don't have one of those yet? Even my sister has one of those!" Yeah, alright, does that matter? Melissa Etheridge didn't use one for about 30 years, so what the heck?!? When I got it she said that it was expensive. Thanks a lot for your professional opinion.. NOT!

Anyway, I went to that music store and asked "Do you have a Capodaster, or whatever you call them here?" and the guy said they wouldn't have one, but the guy at [I forgot the name of that shop] might have some. So I went there and - TADA! - he really had some. He looked at me a bit confused at first and asked me again what I wanted. I said "Capodaster?"... I don't really know how to pronounce that in German, so I didn't dare guess how they pronounce it in English. "Capo?" he asked then and I said yes and he showed me all his many many capos. I took the cheapest one for about eight bucks. The man then asked me where I was from and I told him Germany and he immediately tried to use his German skills: "Danke." :-). If I would have had some more time I could've looked around in his big shop and stare at all those beautiful guitars... but I had to go. You know, I was thinking that maybe one day, when I've been a chopper pilot long enough (hopefully... :-)) I might open up a music store. That sounds like a lot of fun to me.

So, what else did we do on Broadway? We looked at furniture, and there was this very interesting table.. I think it was maple maybe, but I forgot. I just know that it was beautiful. And then Jeff and that nice woman talked about wood, my was that interesting. I didn't even know one could talk about wood, but they could... and as I said, that was really interesting. They said if one has the money, that sure is a nice table to have just to look at. :-). Beautiful indeed.

Then I think Barbara bought a Santana CD for her daddy and in that same store I donated some money for AIDS research or something and got myself an AIDS Awareness ribbon. That day Moni and her husband Brian came over after supper and we talked about music a bit and I gave them my card so they could take a look at my coooool homepage.. :-). Brian also offered us to be his caddies on Friday, and there would've been a free pizza lunch, so I would've liked that a lot... but we weren't sure yet whether we'd maybe go to school on that day, and in the end we did go to school on Friday, therefore we couldn't be his caddies. Since that day I missed my guitar. Everytime I looked at my new capo I was thinking of my guitar and, well, missing it.

### **August 26 [Thursday]:**

We were home alone that day, so when I was just about to confirm our flights the phone rang, so I thought *What the ...* and just answered the call. And, believe it or not, it was for me!! :-). It was Moni and she told me that Brian was interested in my HTML skills and he's running that German-Canadian Project and I could take part in it if I wanted to... and I volunteered :-). So he drove me to his nice secretary Keely from England and she told me some stuff about that project and I said *sure, I'm in*. That reminds me that I was going to work on that already soon, so I better hurry with my page... :-)

Afterwards Brian invited us to Dairy Queen, and if you can't guess what I ate there please read the above report again in whole... :-> Then he drove us to the Mall where I bought more souvenirs for my family.

### **August 27 [Friday]:**

In the morning we went to school (from 8:30am to 3:30pm). A Catholic school, by the way, the Holy Cross school. There was a nice girl whose name I can't spell, and she took us to her classes and arranged it when we wanted to go to other classes and even invites us for lunch. She's a really good singer, by the way. We've been to Christian Ethics in the first lesson, and there was this teacher who seemed pretty happy with his job... then we went to French and they had to write a test.. and it was just like French classes at home, I didn't know too much and guessed most of it. Luckily the teacher didn't check on my mistakes :-> Next was English where we first had to say the numbers one to ten in German and Barb wrote them on the black board.... and her handwriting was pretty confusing for the kids and the teacher there... :-> And then she talked about the Canterbury Tales, which I find quite interesting. Then we had lunch and then we've been to Band for a while and then they showed us the whole school and told everyone they met who we were. I hope that wasn't already my 15 minutes of fame! :-> Then it was English again, and that teacher was a really cool guy. They talked about typical Canadians and about meeting people over telephone services or BBSs.. :->

### **August 28 [Saturday]:**

At 2pm we flew home again, before that we said bye to Jeff, Ellen, Bill and Lorraine. I can't tell whether I was sad to leave or not. I sure enjoyed my time there, it was a lot of fun most of the time. And there sure are a LOT of nice people in Canada. But was I sad to leave? I really can't tell. Maybe I was sad to leave all those nice people behind :-> But on the other hand, there were a lot of nice people waiting for me at home, so... :-> Who knows, it was a lot of fun, that's clear.

The food in the plane was bad, as usual, and the movies were quite boring ("The Out-Of-Towners" with Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn, and some movie with Anthony Edwards), then the sun went down at 4:30 and up again at 8:30... :-> I didn't sit on the window this time, but Barbara did, so I couldn't stare at the clouds... well, but it was okay anyways. Oh, when we flew from Saskatoon to Calgary, we got potato chips, that was good :-> In Calgary we had to wait three hours for our next plane, but I listened to my Walkman most of the time, so it was okay.



**Image 8 – Calgary**



**Image 9 – Calgary**

**August 29 [Sunday]:**

My brother picked us up from the airport. Poor guy, had to wait pretty long for us... the plane was late and then it took about a lifetime till our suitcases finally came. Then he drove us home and it was nice to be home again. I went to bed early that day, maybe at 8pm or something, but then I got a call and before that I decided to read all my e-mails first so it got a little later... and after sleeping for about 13 hours I can't understand why everyone warned me about that bad jetlag. I don't feel any.

Whatever, here I am now, back home again and I want to say thanks to all the nice people for .. well, for being so nice to me. :-) Most of them are probably not going to read that, but I want to say thanks anyway. Thanks to Jeff and Ellen for letting me stay at their home, driving me around, giving me food and drinks and making me meet all the other people.

Thanks to Bill and Lorraine for being so nice and making me feel welcome and for everything else. Thanks to Steph and Nikki for driving us around that Monday and showing us everything (and making us realize how good a Dairy Queen Blizzard is), and thanks again to Nikki for showing us the whole town on that Tuesday :-) Thanks to Bernice, Carolyn and the rest of your family (and soon to come family!) for everything. Thanks to Betty, Camille, Randy, Brittany; to Moni and Brian (and to you, Keely!); and to everyone I forgot now!