

CYCLISTS from FRONT

their travels all over Europe, they found people to be friendly and welcoming.

And thanks to people like Kim and Ted Lang, they are having a similar experience in Canada.

What did they like best about their stay?

Linda says they enjoyed a brief swim in Lake Ontario. "And then we spent an hour in the hot tub," adds Ben with a smile.

Ben says, "People ask us what country do you like most? Where are the people the nicest? And we say they're nice everywhere. When they hear our story, they want to be part of the adventure, and they become part of the adventure by inviting us in."

I asked the Langs what made them say yes to inviting Linda and Ben in, Kim replied "To be honest, we were a little apprehensive at first but you don't have to talk to Ben and Linda long before their genuine positive vibe shines through. They gave us a card

with their website, told us the story of their journeys and the catalyst behind their decision to sell everything and head out on this adventure and we were excited to be part of their story."

In reflecting on the visit, Kim adds, "Too bad that just as we got to know them, they were back on their bikes and on their way again. We will continue to follow them on social media as they head across

Canada and are pleased that we were able to provide them a place to stay. We admire their choice to focus on experiences rather than possessions, their desire to engage in philanthropy to help people along the way and we feel very lucky to have had the good fortune to meet them."

You can follow their story by visiting: <https://en.xplorid.today>



Ben and Linda (pictured left) from the Netherlands, camped out at Kim and Ted Lang's place on their cross-country journey. They have been riding for two years across a variety of countries and have clocked 25,000km.



Photo By Bev Caswell

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THE GOOD WORD

BY BRIAN COLVILLE

Book Review: Every Saturday from April to November, the old Kirby Church throws open the doors to reading fans who just love the thrill of finding that perfect book or books for their reading pleasure, at a price that won't break the bank.

Never Holler Whoa, The Cowboys of Chuckwagon Racing, By Glen Mikkelsen

There's the horn, and They're off! The chuckwagon race is on!

With a heartfelt thanks to Buddy Bensmiller, Jim Nevada, Troy Dorchester, Mark Sutherland, and their families, this is an inside view of chuckwagon racing in Western Canada as it happens at the Calgary Stampede every summer for almost the last hundred years.

The hour is 7:00 pm, just one hour before the first heat of the night. Thirty-six anxious chuckwagon cowboys and their crews are pacing in the barns calculating which four horses to harness to their wagon tonight. As the leather creaks and the buckles jingle the horses begin weaving and prancing in their stalls knowing they get to race tonight. The adrenaline swells in the blood of both men and horses.

Inside the barns, the air is pungent with the smell of sweet fresh hay, earthy horse sweat, and the tangy bouquet of Copenhagen chewing tobacco. Wagon racing is also the sugary taste of a country fair; cotton candy, candy apples, and mini-donuts, pancakes and bacon grilling for breakfast with a rye and coke, the champagne of the prairies to wash it all down. Chuckwagon racing captures the optimism of summer, the affection of friends and the undying romance of the West. Their hardiness and hospitality traditions reflect western lifestyles and a pioneering spirit that persists today, dedicated to a horse driven culture filled with danger, and joy.

According to legend, the chuckwagon was first created by Charles Goodnight in the 1860 era. using a civil war army wagon as a mobile kitchen. Also, according to legend, cowboys hated cooking. When one camp lost their cook, a reluctant volunteer agreed to cook, but growled that the first man to complain would become the cook. After a week, with not one complaint registered to inherit the job, he decided to bring it to a head by cooking up a special meal of cow pie prairie stew. One cowpoke took a mouthful and said I'll be damned, this tastes just like a cow pie! But it is good.

This history of The Calgary Stampede came from Old Kirby Church Bookstore, open every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. for our reading fans. No Stetsons required when book shopping!

See you Soon! *Tereza, Marie, Rick and Brian*