

Day	Date: Friday, May 9, 2025	Site: H175	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#1	Weather: cloudy, 20kph wind	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Whitecourt

on Wednesday I brought 7 home and completed de-winterizing, sanitized the water system, checked tire pressures and all the other things needed before the first trip of the year. No mice in the traps which is good because there were at least a dozen dead mice in the traps over the winter.

The drive out to the campground was uneventful. The trees are budding out and the fields are turning green near Edmonton but an hour NE on Hwy43 everything still looks dormant and brown. I expect things may green up here in the coming days.



Carson-Pegasus Prov Park Site H175

We are not in our favourite spot because we couldn't reserve it for the Thursday before the upcoming long weekend and we didn't want to move for just one night so here we are. At least it is waterfront although not as private as the sites across the street.

It turns out that I did reserve one of our usual sites (H178) and it was empty when we pulled in. By the time Tess pointed it out to me, we were already completely set up in H175 so we are going to stay here until we have to move on Thursday. Another of my more frequent senior moments.

They are doing lots of work on the campground, or rather to the boat launch and seawall. Things are much improved with a concrete retaining wall replacing the constantly in need of repair wooden one. There are even holes cast in the concrete to fit your fishing rod.

We arrived about 2 and it took until 3 to get completely set up. I took Spike for a walk then had a nap. Our traditional BBQ burgers and dogs for dinner plus corn on the cob (and trout for Tess) then as it cooled off considerably, we decided to wait until tomorrow to catch fish. A fellow who was out day fishing in his boat gave Tess a nice sized fish which she ate for dinner.

Lots of ducks and crows about a usual. An Osprey flew by with a decent trout in its talons. Chicks to feed, no doubt. Spike is happy and wants to play with the ducks but no.

There is a fire ban in place so only propane firepits and BBQs are permitted. We just stayed in after Spike's evening walk. We watched an old movie then went to bed.

Day	Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025	Site: H175	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#2	Weather: cloudy, 10kph wind	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Whitecourt

I was up at the crack off 8:00 and Spike had to go out to pee so we went for a walk – before my morning coffee! We were back 45 minutes later and had fresh coffee with toast with peanut butter sitting outside looking at the lake, listening to the loons. What a great way to start the day.

After the usual puttering about we walked to the seawall to fish. The newly renovated area looks great. The walkway is freshly gravelled and level, the benches are still in place and there were a whole herd of fishers with only one bench free. We settled in to catch a string of fish and two hours later we were still waiting for our fist bite. People all around us were hauling them in one after another. We were at the same depth, the same distance out and the same colour Powerbait but they were catching and we weren't. I did eventually land one decent fish so at least we weren't skunked. That's fishing.



Loon

The Oilers are playing game 3 of the second round of the Stanley Cup elimination rounds tonight. The Oilers are up 2-0 in the best of 7. Since there are no TV signals at the campground, we went back to the casino on Hwy 43 to watch, eat and have a beer or two. Well, three. It was a heartbreaker with an accidental tip into our own net with 0.4 seconds left on the game clock. Less than half a second from overtime! Sigh.

We came home about 10:45 to a happy dog. I took him for a short walk and we went to bed. Maybe we'll have a fire tomorrow night.

Day	Date: Sunday, May 11, 2025	Site: H175	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#3	Weather: sunny	Temp: 20	Nearby Town: Whitecourt

Happy Mother's Day to Tess. The forecast was for rain all day but we woke up to a blue sky. A few clouds rolled in later but overall, a very nice day. Since we managed to load up the motorhome for a week-long trip and didn't pack any junk food or treats, we headed into Whitecourt to remedy that situation.

Stingray Broadcasting has a new radio station in Whitecourt – BOOM 96.7 which plays 70s, 80s & 90s only with no annoying DJs talking over the beginning and end of songs. Our new favourite Whitecourt station.

While we were in town, Spike and I wandered around Can Tire but left without buying anything. Next stop was o Frills and, being a grocery store, Spike could not come in so he and I stayed in the car people watching. Tess eventually came out with the much-needed junk food and no less than 5 baskets of flowers! They were 2/3 off and she does love a bargain. Our campsite looks very cheerful.

Back at camp we headed for the seawall to try and add to our 1 fish in the freezer. In a couple of hours, we had each caught a decent sized trout. Tess insists I note here in the log that hers was the biggest so far. Spike and I came home about 7:00 and Tess stayed fishing for another hour. I ate dinner and read for a while. Later, we watched a movie and went to bed.

Day	Date: Monday, May 12, 2025	Site: H175	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#4	Weather: rain showers	Temp: 15	Nearby Town: Whitecourt

Happy 76th birthday to Tess! We woke up to light rain and as expected, almost all the shrubs and trees now have green on them as they wake from another long, cold winter. Tess got lots Facebook posts, emails and phone calls wishing her well. Mark called, of course, and brought us up to date on news in his world.



Birthday Girl Fishing

More campers left this morning so there are just 3 of us left. Even in the rain there will probably be a few day-trippers fishing on the seawall. We decided to wait until the rain stopped after lunch to fish. Wel, it mostly stopped. There were a few scattered showers which had us hiding under a tree, but they didn't last long. We eventually caught a nice fish and they went into the freezer with the two we caught yesterday. 7 more to go to get to our limit.

Since the Oilers have a playoff game tonight and there is no television reception here in the campground, we went back to the casino to

watch. The casino gives \$20 off and a slice of cheesecake to birthday people so dinner and desert were very reasonable. As a bonus, the Oilers won 3 – 0 over Las Vegas Golden Knights and we now lead the best of 7 by 3 games to 1. Stanley Cup here we come!

Day	Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025	Site: H175	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#5	Weather: sunny	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Whitecourt

We woke up to sunny skies and every tree and shrub showing off their new green leaves and buds. There a few fishers on the seawall or out trolling in little boats but with only one of the remaining other RVs in the campground, we are basically alone to enjoy the smells and sounds of the park coming out of hibernation. Good for the soul!

The park grounds crew are busy getting everything ready for the camping season opener this coming long weekend. The place looks good. One camper left and two new ones arrived so we are back to 4 RVs. Spike and I went on our morning walk then had coffee and breakfast when we returned. Tess got up at her usual time after reading in bed for a bit.

We hit the seawall and joined the day-trippers looking for rainbows. Tess caught 2, I got nothing. Fish are strange. We now have 6 fish in the freezer so it has been a decent trip. Evenings quickly get very chilly with temperatures down to single digits by 8pm. Its not freezing overnight but darn close.

We stayed in the nice warm RV and watched a couple of movies before bed at our usual time.

Day	Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025	Site: H175	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#6	Weather: cloudy, windy, showers	Temp: 13	Nearby Town: Whitecourt

The day started off with sunshine and blue sky but by 10:00 it was windy and spitting rain. We hit the seawall early (for us) but by noon, we were cold and hadn't caught anything, so we came back to camp to warm up and eat lunch. Since this camp site is right on the water, there is nothing to break the wind and it is too cold to sit outside, so we sat inside then had naps.



Downy Woodpecker

We spent a couple of hours on the seawall fishing but had no luck. We went back to the casino to watch the Oilers game and had better luck there. Not on the slots, this was a break-even day, but on the ice as the Oilers beat Las Vegas 1 - 0 in overtime to win the series and advance to the third round.

I like our cup chances this year.

Day	Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025	Site: H178	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#7	Weather: cloudy, windy	Temp: 10	Nearby Town: Whitecourt



Carson-Pegasus Prov Park Site H178

Today is moving day. It is a lot of work just to move across the street! I put away all the outside stuff yesterday so it was just organizing the inside stuff today. We finished up by 11:00, which is checkout time.

There is a steady breeze and single digit temperatures so it is too chilly to sit beside the lake and fish to add to the 6 already in the freezer. At least on this side of the peninsula. Perhaps the seawall on the other side will be better after lunch. The fire ban has been lifted so we can have the first fire of the season tonight, if it doesn't rain.

The move was done on time and later in the afternoon a Ranger came around to ask us to check in at the store which is now open. Spike and I wandered up there later and did the paperwork. Staff are busy opening it up and getting stock on the shelves ahead of the weekend rush.

Later, we walked down to the seawall to see how Tess made out. She had 4 solid bites but no fish on the chain. She has had enough fishing for this trip so we are going home with 6 in the freezer. Not a bad trip.

The fire ban was lifted yesterday so tonight we had our first campfire of the year. I still have some of the Douglas Fir Todd gave us last year and it smells so good when burned. We went in about 8:00 because of the chill. We watched a movie and went to bed.



Our Catch for the Week

On Friday morning we woke up to a beautiful sunny day and the peninsula campground loops about half full. We are leaving today before the madness starts. We had a good week – lots of fish, decent spring weather, the Oilers won, and no RV problems.

Day	Date: Sunday, July 13, 2025	Site: Deer 108	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#8	Weather: cloudy, windy, showers	Temp: 15	Nearby Town: Wabamun

It has been a month since we were out but Tess flowers are established well enough now that a day or three of missed watering isn't going to kill them. That's good because they look really pretty and bring her a lot of joy. We set off about 1:00 and arrived here an hour later, an hour too early to move into our site. We drove up to the loop and dropped off the car then parked Seven and settled in for an hour of radio and reading. And people watching, of course.

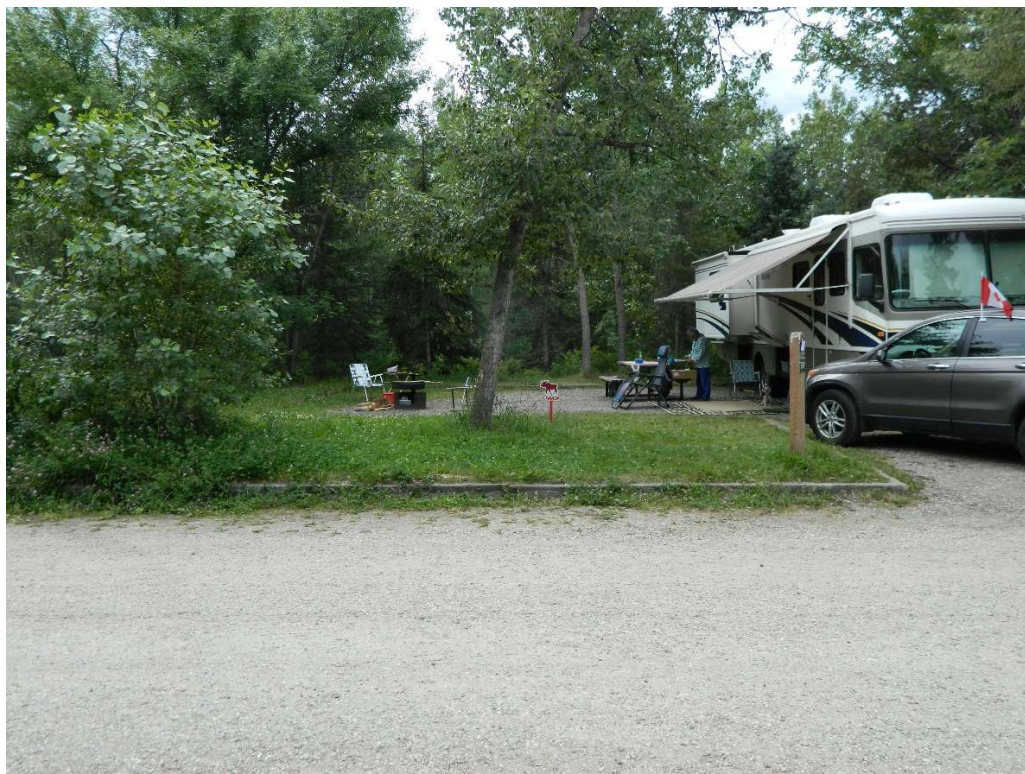
This is the first trip with the new tires on Sevan and the slight squirming I noted when I first installed these Hercules tires on the front is back. I think it is just the thickness of the new tread and they will settle down as they wear. The new Michelin grip tires on the back are definitely noisier than the old Hercules smooth rib were. Not too loud, just letting me know they are grips, not ribs. I can live with them

The campsite on the corner across from us had 4 people, 2 dogs, and a black and white Vietnamese Pot-Bellied Pig! That's a first in the 50 years we have been camping. He had his own pen outside and his own lawn chair for visiting. He even had a ramp to get up into the trailer because, as we all know, pigs can't fly. Or even jump very well for that matter.



Vietnamese Pot-Bellied Pig

Once we got settled into our site it was still raining on and off so we decided to just stay in with no fire tonight. I am still getting used to the two new meds I am taking and, combined with the meds for my restless leg symptoms which were very active, I went to bed about 9:00. I intended to read but never got the chance passing out as soon as I got horizontal.



Wabamun Site 108

Day	Date: Monday, July 14, 2025	Site: Deer 108	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#9	Weather: high overcast	Temp: 18	Nearby Town: Wabamun

I got up at 8:00am and felt pretty good. First order of business is to take Spike for his morning walkies. He wants to chase a gopher or a squirrel so badly. The gophers just disappear into thick brush or a hole in the ground and of course the squirrels just climb the closest tree and laugh at him. Poor Spike. We visited with the next-door neighbours then came home for breakfast. With full tummies it was time for a rest, naturally.

Two sites down from us a very nice 39' diesel pusher arrived. The road and the individual campsites here are not designed for anything over about 32' so he had to do a lot of back and forth to avoid hitting the 90-degree concrete corners at the entrance to the campsite. I lent him my bucking saw and he cut down a couple of thick branches that would have poked him in the windshield, and he got in safely.

In the afternoon we went for a drive to the day use area. At the boat launch there was a fellow whose boat wouldn't start. I offered to help and it turned out to be an issue with the starter not engaging the flywheel except occasionally. He didn't understand the difference between high idle and choke on his older Mercury engine but that really didn't matter since it wouldn't even crank. I told him to take it to a boat mechanic.

When we finished our walkabout, we came back to camp and lit a fire. Tess salvaged a round of nice, clean wood and chopped it up. As usual, one match and Tess had a nice fire burning. This year we have kiln dried spruce firewood salvaged from new home construction sites around our neighbourhood. Burns hot and drama free. And it is easy to pack into a storage compartment.

We went in about 9:00. I had a nice hot shower and we went to bed about 10:15 being the old farts that we are becoming.

Day	Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025	Site: Deer 108	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#10	Weather: mostly sunny	Temp: 22	Nearby Town: Wabamun

We woke up to blue skies and sunshine. After Spike and I had our morning walk (with the neighbour) it was breakfast outside while watching all the typical activities in any campground – RVs and tenters coming and going, packing and unpacking, and eating breakfast or preparing lunch.

We spent most of the day at the Day Use area sitting in a lawn chair on the grass in the shade provided by a decent size tree. We got to watch the kids play in the lake and on the beach. There are a couple of playgrounds so I went hunting for treasure with my metal detector. No treasure but I did remove pull tabs, bobby pins, a pop can, and other assorted junk. It was hot in the direct sun so Spike and I walked over to the concession and got a snow cone. As always, Spike got lots of attention and pats through the day. He loves it all.

We had a nice fire after I BBQ'd burgers and dogs. By 9:00 Tess went in to shower while Spike and I stayed for another half hour before going on our evening walkies. By now, he has met nearly every dog in this loop and their owners know him by name so a 500-metre walk can take half an hour.

Day	Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2025	Site: Deer 108	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#11	Weather: mostly cloudy	Temp: 21	Nearby Town: Wabamun

We woke up to blue skies but by 10am the clouds had rolled in. Doesn't look like rain but the clouds will keep the temperature down so the day is pleasant. Our morning walkies were quiet as most people are not yet outside at 9am. Several sites have a lot of chairs set up around the firepit. While one site just has a lot of kids and their friends, at least three are large family camping trips with three of four campsites per family and they all gather at one site for the evening fire.

The changes in this campground since we first started coming here in 1980 or so, are remarkable. What were twigs are now 40' high trees. What used to be firewood self-serve stations are now just parking spaces. Many sites have been added, a lot with power. The dump station is now 4 lanes wide and the interior roads are paved. The fees have gone up too. What used to cost \$25 in 2002 (as far back as my detailed records go) now costs \$49 plus reservation fee plus firewood. Even so, it is worth the hour's drive to come out here to relax and recharge.

I logged into the Wheels of Hope website and got my trips for Friday and called my patients to confirm. Only two this week.

We drove into the town of Wabamun so see the sights, such as they are. The day use area has been torn up and a new beach, water park, playground, and a couple of buildings are going up. It should be a nice area when it is done. The marina also has an RV park but it is all seasonal campers lined up side by side. They do back onto the marshy area on the lakeshore and offer full hookups but no thanks. There are a number of new buildings including a hospital of sorts, and some big homes.

Back home for dinner but no fire tonight. We began the packing up process for the return home tomorrow.

Day	Date: Sunday, Sept 7, 2025	Site: H179	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#12	Weather: Sunny, some smoke	Temp: 24	Nearby Town: Whitecourt

Our last planned trip of the year after a busy summer around home. The trip to Whitecourt was uneventful but we were surprised at how busy the campground is. There were only 2 empty sites in this loop and two in the beach loop. After Labour Day! We settled into a nice site and after a false start because I parked too close to the power pedestal to open the basement door with the BBQ. I got level, opened the bedroom slide then opened the main slide. Or rather I tried to. Nothing – dead as a coffin nail.

Tess went fishing while I tried to figure out the slide problem. Fuses good. Relay seems OK since the bedroom slide works. Checked every wire I could reach and there are no mouse bite marks anywhere. The switch over the door that selects and controls the slides is the next suspect, along with the motor itself.

Tess came home with one fish and a story about two more getting away. We ate dinner then had a fire for an hour or so. It is now dark at 9pm. The trees aren't as yellow as I expected but we haven't had a hard frost yet. It's just a matter of time.



Carson-Pegasus Site H179



Carson-Pegasus Site H179

Day	Date: Monday, Sept 8, 2025	Site: H179	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#13	Weather: sunny, some smoke	Temp: 26	Nearby town: Whitecourt

I know we RV'd for decades in rigs with no slide-outs but we forgot how claustrophobic they are. I plan to spend some time working on the problem later today.

I had to run to can tire to pick up some items and I dropped Tess off at the casino. Once back in camp. I finished repairing a borderline wire terminal, inspected every wire i could find behind the bedroom drawers, under the fridge, and under the sink. They were all fine. Then I put everything back together. Not surprisingly, the slide still didn't move. All the handy guys in the campground collective brains eventually guessed it was the motor.

I unplugged the 2 wires going to the motor. They are equally stout so i figured one was to extend and the other to retract with the motor grounding itself on the frame. I had to manually extend the slide about half way to get access to the motor, take a couple of photos. it turned out there was a nut on the pinion shaft that was literally hanging on by a thread so I torqued it down while I was down there in the dirt.

I put 12v directly to each of the motor terminals and nothing. Maybe it is the motor. I'll have to pull it out and bench test it another day. In the meantime, we have most of our floor space back so that's good. I will be pissed if it is raining when I have to crawl back down and wrench the slide back in!

No fire tonight, we had a late dinner then I had a much-needed shower before bed. The plan is to spend tomorrow fishing.

Day	Date: Tuesday, Sept 9, 2025	Site: H179	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#14	Weather: sunny, some smoke	Temp: 24	Nearby town: Whitecourt

Today was a fishing day, as planned. We, or rather Tess, caught only one. That brings the freezer total to 3 fish.



Common Loon



Female Mallard Duck

In the afternoon Spike and I came home for a nap. I like naps! When Tess came home, we lit a fire and ate dinner. We visited neighbours and did the usual domestic stuff. Mark sent us an update on their house renovations which are coming along nicely. They may be able to move in by September 30th at this rate.

We watched a not-very-good shooter movie then a few Bugs Bunny cartoons before bed at about 10:00.

Day	Date: Wednesday, Sept 10, 2025	Site: H179	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#15	Weather: sunny, some smoke	Temp: 22	Nearby town: Whitecourt

Today was our first dedicated fishing day – we spent all day on the seawall. Instead of the four or five fish we were hoping for, we got exactly nothing! We visited with other fishers who also caught few, if any fish. The exception was Jim and Cheyenne who kindly donated 3 fish to Tess’ collection. They have a 2005 Triple E 30’ Class A and are from Sherwood Park.

Tess and Spike gave up around 3:00 and left to clean the donated fish and have a fire. I kept at it with no success but did spend a half hour helping out two women car camping. They had zero experience so after they asked nicely, I set up their gear and taught them how to cast. They caught nothing, like the rest of us, but seemed to enjoy themselves.

After a short visit at Jim & Cheyenne’s site, I got back to camp about 6pm. Tess had hot dogs cooked over the fire for dinner. We enjoyed the fire until dusk then headed in to watch more Bugs Bunny. The hundreds of movies I had on the external hard drive seems to have disappeared so I’ll check that out tomorrow.

Day	Date: Thursday, Sept 11, 2025	Site: H179	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#16	Weather: sunny, some smoke	Temp: 23	Nearby town: Whitecourt



Morning Mist on Carson Lake

We woke Thursday up to another beautiful, sunny end-of-summer day. Each day the trees are turning more yellow. Nights are down to mid-single figure temps and the days are perfect with a gentle breeze. There are no mosquitos so it doesn't get much better than this. The bears seem to have left the area but we will keep a tidy camp so they don't have reason to return.



Tess Ready to go to Town

No fishing today – we went into town for supplies and treats and then after a quick stop at Dairy Queen for treats, I dropped Tess off at the casino because it is wing night. Spike and I returned home, took a walk and then I returned to the casino. My timing was perfect because as I walked in, the server put 3 plates of wings down on Tess' table. I also ordered a fish and chips dinner and had a couple of cold beers.

The blackjack table was \$10 per hand minimum bet meaning I would likely lose my \$100 budget in 15 minutes. Instead, I joined Tess playing the slots. Same result, it just took quite a bit longer. Tess claims she won a little.

We got home about 9:30 to a happy dog. After a few more Bugs Bunny cartoons we went to bed.

Day	Date: Friday, Sept 12, 2025	Site: H179	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#17	Weather: sunny, some smoke	Temp: 24	Nearby town: Whitecourt

After the day off yesterday, it was time to get back to work stocking up the freezer for the long winter ahead. I finally caught a fish – a sucker (carp), naturally. Tess caught one too but she also caught two rainbows. Spike spent the day beside me on the bench along the seawall. He is really well behaved, only occasionally wanting to chase squirrels. He greets everyone walking by with a wagging tail and gets lots of pats.

We returned home about 5:00, had a fire, ate dinner then both had showers. A hot shower feels so good after 3 days! We are camping, remember. After the showers and doing the dishes, we are down to a half tank of fresh water – probably 150 accessible litres left. That's really good after 6 days.

I found a couple of DVDs in a cupboard so we watched a pretty good cop show then a couple of cartoons before bed.

Day	Date: Saturday, Sept 13, 2025	Site: H179	Campground: Carson-Pegasus Prov Park
#18	Weather: sunny, some smoke	Temp: 24	Nearby town: Whitecourt

There has been a steady stream of RVs coming through the campground for several days now. There are no sites left and I wonder where they are going. There are several campgrounds in the area so they aren't stuck going to Wal-Mart.

The leaves are turning yellow more quickly now that we have had a few cooler nights. No frost yet though. There are more birds bombing around the forest than I have ever seen here. Little brown birds, robins, magpies, crows. Bald eagles, osprey, woodpeckers, and the list goes on. They are noisy too!

Since we are leaving tomorrow, Tess decided she wants to try the casino one last time. While she was away, Spike and I spent the afternoon fishing. People all around us were catching, but not me. Not even a nibble. Same bait, same rigging, same casting distance, just no fish. At least I caught a sucker the other day. After a few hours of this I had had enough. One of the other fishers took pity on me and gave me a couple of fish so Tess will be happy at least.

Tess got home about 5:00 and we had a nice fire for a couple of hours. I started departure procedures and eventually went in for dinner. We watched a movie then some cartoons and went to bed at our usual time.

This is it for another Year's camping. Not a lot of days out at 17 but lots of fishing.