

Poking Around Radium

Written by Susan Hollingshead
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Radium Hot Springs is more than what initially meets the eye. At first we saw older motel and hotel accommodations with all sorts of charm but from an era gone by. The one and only grocery store is small and heavily stocked but there is nothing organic to speak of and the produce was looking a little old. There are several restaurants which at first glance, appear to be pretty basic covering most folk's meat and potato-type tastes.

However first impressions of Radium Hot Springs can be very deceiving because this town with a population of 910 is on the verge of some big changes. As we poked around a little more we discovered some major housing developments consisting of single family homes, RV lots, townhouses and condominiums. You see, Radium Hot Springs, aside from having a beautiful odour-free hot springs facility open year round, is within a short drive to several world class golf courses and downhill ski resorts. But that's not all; for the outdoor enthusiast there is boating, kayaking, white-water rafting, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, backpacking, hiking, hang-gliding, parasailing and of course, sight-seeing. Because of the poor road access, Panorama Mountain Resort, a fabulous local ski resort, isn't crowded ever which makes it a great place for skiers who like having the hills to themselves. However with a new access road planned and the airport expansion under way in Cranbrook, that will change too.

So today we spent some time checking into housing; more specifically condos and ones that are in the construction phase. We found several very appealing developments and the price

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ranges are pretty good leaving us with plenty to think about. If we decide to stop traveling in the next year or two and go back to stick and bricks, Radium Hot Springs has the appeal of becoming a place to settle. With the “downtown” area (there really isn’t one) very underdeveloped it even has the potential of becoming a place to start a business. When we leave here tomorrow, we’ll have some serious thinking to do!

This afternoon I took some pictures of this park, Radium Valley Vacation Resort, which is, as you can see, quite beautiful!