

Fort McMurray, Alberta, to Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, connecting with the Winter Road through Wood Buffalo National Park to Fort Smith, Northwest Territories.



This Northern Winter/Ice Road is the worst in my experience. Rough and narrow on the bottom end, bouncy, twisting; some flat stretches in the middle; but rough across frozen marsh/muskeg (?) through willows for the top third. I crossed three rivers with rough surfaces. Time and distance saved was not worth it; I will have to forget a lot before I come this way again. Neither my old truck nor I need take such pounding. I ended up stopping overnight in Fort Chipewyan. I had a half-tank of diesel, but the only station with diesel was closed on New Year's Day. I do not know the Fort Smith road, and I am loathe to drive in the dark here. So I am at the Dene Cree Inn where Victoria, a delightful young (returned) local woman at the front desk, confirms Fort Chip has much more going for it than many a fly-in, winter road, barges-in-the-summer remote Northern community.