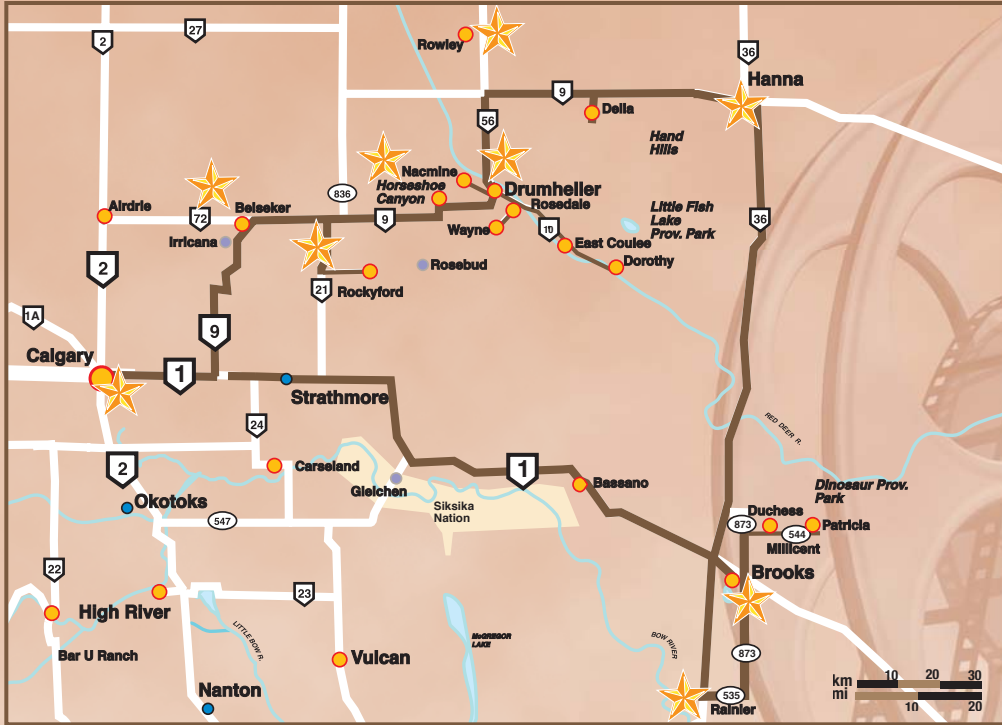


REEL ADVENTURES: Badlands and Bad Guys

Calgary to Drumheller, Brooks and Hanna



There's an imposing size to the country east of Calgary, a swatch of broad plain under a big sky that needs only the silhouette of horse and rider to conjure up images of bold cinematic westerns. So choose your hat colour, black or white, and let's ride the sage of the silver screen to a place where bullets, broncos and bravado hold sway.

- Film Location
- Drive-by Film Location
- Photo Opportunity
- Walk or Hike Experience
- Museum

The land, broken by the unique geography of dinosaur country, provides the perfect scenery for the moody (*Unforgiven*), the dangerous (*Texas Rangers*) and the rollicking (*Knockaround Guys*). There's plenty of *Brokeback Mountain* here, too, and *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*.

The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) puts Brad Pitt in the lead role in the retelling of the infamous outlaw's last days, and Casey Affleck in the role of his killer.

Brokeback Mountain (2005) tells the poignant story of love between two ranch hands and of how it affects their lives over the years. Jake Gyllenhaal and the late Heath Ledger star.

Knockaround Guys (2001) is a comedy about the misadventures of sons of mobsters sent on an errand to a small town. Barry Pepper stars with Vin Diesel and John Malkovich.

Texas Rangers (2001) tells the story how Leander McNelly (Dylan McDermott) shaped the legendary lawmen from a bunch of post-Civil-War ne'er-do-wells. It also stars Tom Skerritt, Randy Travis and Robert Patrick.

Unforgiven (1991) is Clint Eastwood's dark Western of a retired gunfighter who takes on one last assignment. With Eastwood directing and playing the lead role, the movie won the Oscar for best picture. Also starring are Morgan Freeman and Richard Harris.



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"Knockaround Guys" Copyright MMII, New Line Productions, Inc. Poster appear courtesy of New Line Productions, Inc.

Calgary

1 While in Calgary, a visit to **Heritage Park**, 1900 Heritage Drive S.W., will help spur our western movie tour. Situated on a sprawl of land on the shore of the Glenmore Reservoir, the park includes an authentic period town crafted from buildings found across southern Alberta and an operating steam locomotive. It furnished the makers of *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* with the perfect set, along with a locale in the Kananaskis, for Creede, Colorado, although the train robbery scenes were shot at Fort Edmonton in the province's capital.

Trip to Drumheller

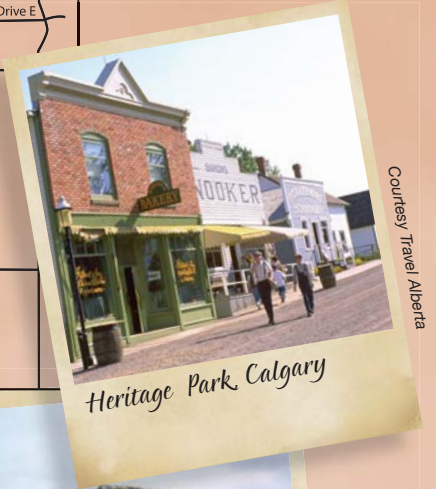
We'll be heading east out of Calgary on the Trans-Canada Highway for about 25 kilometres before turning north and east on Highway 9 toward **Drumheller**, home to the **Royal Tyrrell Museum** and surrounded by its famous dinosaur badlands. It's easy to see why Eastwood, who flew over the area in 1991 while scouting scenes for *Unforgiven*, chose this area for much of the film's backdrop.

Beiseker

Before Drumheller, where Highway 9 turns east at Highway 72, sits **Beiseker** and a touch of **Brokeback Mountain** (2005). Ennis Del Mar (Health Ledger) lived in his trailer here, visited by his daughter Alma. To find the spot, take First Avenue just under a kilometre to the **town dump** and turn right at the dump sign for 300 metres; the site is surrounded by a white fence.

At the intersection of the two highways is the **Siesta Motel**; the exterior was used in the film. If you have time, take Highway 72 west 6.6 km to Range Road 264, turn south and go 3.2 km to Township Road 280. It's where Ennis worked on the paving crew.

East of town, 6.5 km along Highway 72, is the Twist Ranch, home of Jack Twist's parents, visited by Ennis after Jack's death. Turn south on Range Road 252 at the **Grande Ole West Villa Ranch** sign for 1.6 km and you'll find the abandoned ranch house on the left side of the road. **This is**



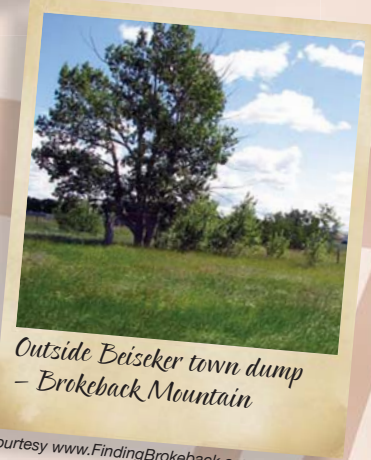
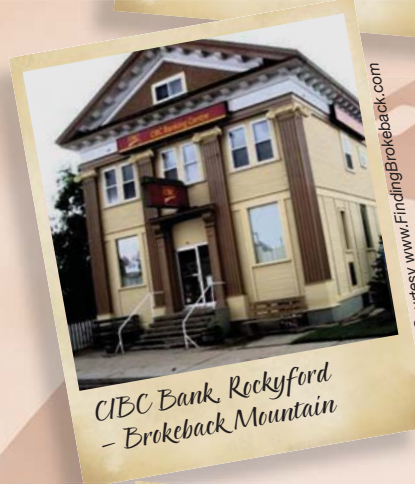
private property, so permission must be obtained before entering the ranch.

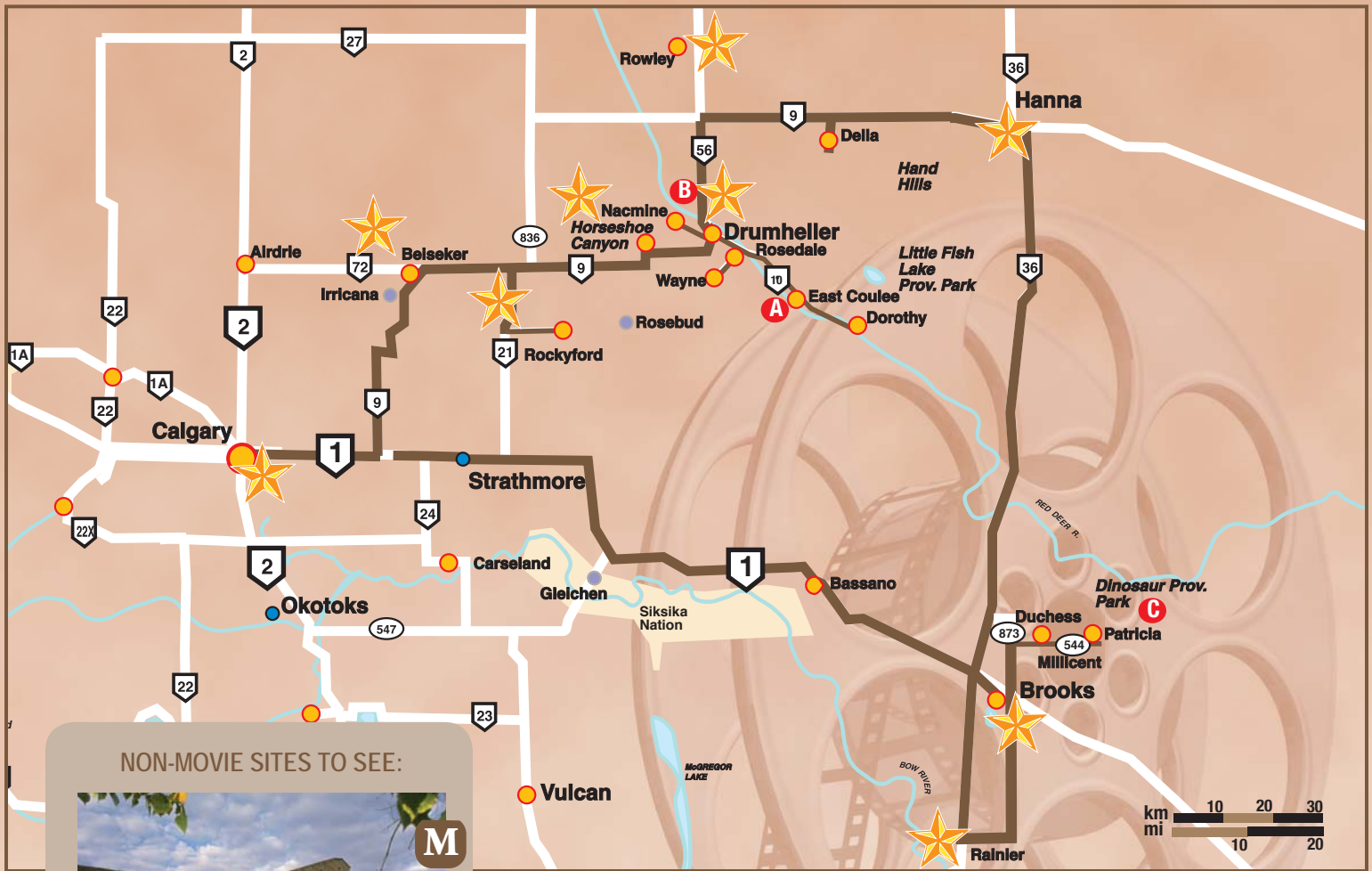
Rockyford

There's plenty more **Brokeback Mountain** in the tiny community of **Rockyford**. From Beiseker, continue east on Highway 9 about 19 km then south on Highway 21. In town you'll find **JT's Bar** where the phone booth was located; the **Childress Dancehall** façade and the **Riverton Post Office** at Main and First Avenue.

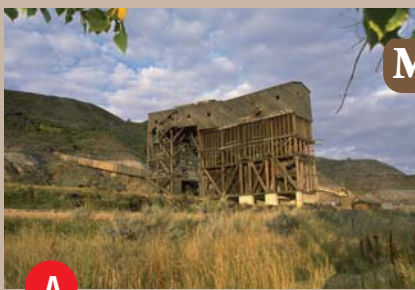
Across from the Post Office is a **CIBC Bank**, used as the exterior of the dancehall where the Twists and the Malones spend an evening and where Jack sits outside with Randall.

Here, too, is the **Rockyford Rodeo Grounds**, used in the movie for both the Electra and Childress rodeos, and the parking spot where Jack and Lureen made out in the car.





NON-MOVIE SITES TO SEE:



A

Atlas Coal Mine, East Coulee

M

Courtesy Travel Alberta



B

Royal Tyrrell Museum

M

Courtesy Royal Tyrrell Museum / Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture



C

Dinosaur Provincial Park

Courtesy Travel Alberta

Towards Drumheller

From Rockyford, double back on Highway 21 north towards Highway 9. At the intersection, go east on Highway 9 for about 45 km to **Drumheller**.

The road to Drumheller and beyond is also *Unforgiven* territory, a film that also won Oscars for best director (Eastwood), best supporting actor (Gene Hackman) and best editing. More importantly for Alberta, *Unforgiven* is credited with reviving the province as a prime movie location, and set the stage, so to speak, for later films such as *Legends of the Fall*, *Brokeback Mountain* and *RV*, ending a dry spell that set in after *Little Big Man* and *Superman* in the 1970s.



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About 17 kms before you reach Drumheller – and still on Highway 9 – is **Horseshoe Canyon** in the **Drumheller Valley**; next to the valley is the location of Morgan Freeman's shack in *Unforgiven*. Parts of *Superman* were also filmed in the canyon.

The area has doubled for several world locales, primarily the Middle East. It also served as backdrop for a *Shanghai Noon* (1999) scene with Jackie Chan, who plays a Chinese man travelling to the Wild West and a luckless Owen Wilson who plays a train robber, both trying to rescue a kidnapped princess. The pair take on a Chinese traitor and his boss.

Drumheller

In **Drumheller**, leave the make-believe for a moment, and step back millions of years to the real-life world of the dinosaurs at the **Royal Tyrrell Museum**, a world-class exhibition and research facility. Devoted entirely to paleontology, it displays more than 200 dinosaur specimens, video theatres and hands-on scientific experiments. The museum is located six kilometres west of **Drumheller** on North Dinosaur Trail (Highway 838). Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie visited the museum with their children Maddox and Zahara during the filming of *Jesse James*.

Drumheller Golf Course provided the setting for *Where the Dinosaurs Roam*, while **Midland Provincial Park** provided the backdrop for *Roughing It*, a TV movie about a teenaged Mark Twain who travels to the American West during the "Gold Rush" days. *Rat Race* with Cuba Gooding Jr. has cars flying in the **Greentree area** of Drumheller. This 2001 movie starring Whoopi Goldberg and Seth Green features a race for money set up by a Las Vegas casino magnate.



Drumheller Detail

- 1 Drumheller Golf Course
- 2 Royal Tyrrell Museum and Midland Provincial Park
- 3 Greentree Area
- 4



Horseshoe Canyon –
Unforgiven, Superman

Courtesy Drumheller Chamber of Commerce



Rat Race, filmed in the
Greentree Area of Drumheller

Courtesy Jerry Brett/
Town of Drumheller



Train positioning for
Shanghai Noon, in
Drumheller

Courtesy Jerry Brett/Town of Drumheller



Shanghai Noon

Courtesy Jerry Brett/Town of Drumheller



Roughing It shoot at
Midland Provincial Park

Courtesy Jerry Brett/Town of Drumheller



Roughing It shoot at
Midland Provincial Park

Courtesy Jerry Brett/Town of Drumheller



KNOCKAROUND GUYS

"Knockaround Guys"

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Top Two Photos by Michael Ginsberg. Third photo by Takashi Seida
Photos appear courtesy of New Line Productions, Inc.

OTHER MOVIES FILMED NEAR DRUMHELLER

- Dreamkeeper (2003)
- Ararat (2001)
- Knockaround Guys (2001)
- Rat Race (2001)
- The Matthew Shepard Story (2001)
- The Hitcher II (2001)
- Children of Fortune (2000)
- Shanghai Noon (1999)
- Wild America (1996)
- Unforgiven (1991)
- Superman (1977)

Short Side Trips from Drumheller:

1 If you're thirsty, take a short drive from Drumheller to **Nacmine** on Highway 838, where you'll find **El Coyote Bar**. This bar was converted into a Mexican bar for *Dead Bang* (1989), a story of a cop gunned down on Christmas Eve, starring Don Johnson. The town was also featured in *The Hitcher II: I've Been Waiting* (2003), a spooky confrontation between a troubled cop, his girlfriend and a maniacal hitchhiker played by Jake Busey.

2 Another place to quench your thirst is in **Wayne** (off Highway 570), where you'll find the **Last Chance Saloon & Hotel**, which has also served as a location for many films as well as commercials for Tilley Hats and Jaguar.

3 Just down the road on Highway 570, you'll find **East Coulee**, which served as a location for *Dino Sapien* (2007), an action adventure TV series. Also filmed in **East Coulee** were *Children of Fortune* (2000) with James Brolin, about a navy detective who is assigned to investigate the murder of a sailor's girlfriend; and *You Know My Name* with Sam Elliott, who is film director-producer Bill Tilghman in this fact-based biography. Here, you can also tour the **Atlas Coal Mine National Historic Site**, one of the most complete coal mining museums in Canada. You can take a mine tour, hear fascinating stories, climb the last wooden tippie in Canada or ride in a coal car, all with the assistance of an experienced guide, right in the heart of the Badlands.

4 About seven km east of **East Coulee**, close to the river was the site for Atom Egoyan's *Ararat* (2002) about the Armenian genocide claims between 1915 and 1918.

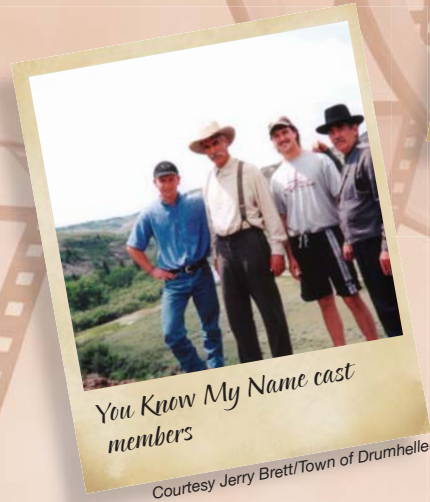
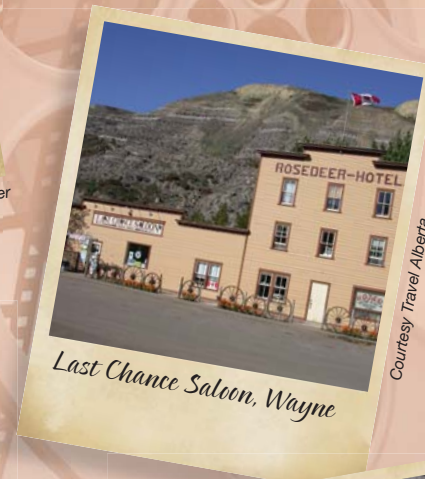
5 Continuing down the road on Highway 570 towards **Dorothy**, turn south on Highway 848, cross a yellow bridge, and 500 metres on the west side of the road is the **Brokeback Mountain** flashback scene in which Ennis remembers seeing the body in the ditch.



Drumheller Area Map

- 1 El Coyote Bar
- 2 Last Chance Saloon
- 3 *Dino Sapien* shoot site, East Coulee
- 4 *Ararat* shoot site, East Coulee near river
- 5 *Brokeback Mountain* shoot site, near Dorothy

For More Information
www.dinosaurvalley.com



MOVIES FILMED NEARBY
DELIA

Knockaround Guys (2001)

ROWLEY

Bye Bye Blues (1988)

HANNA

Wild America (1996)

Why Shoot the Teacher (1976)



Drumheller to Hanna

From Drumheller, staying on Highway 9 and heading north, just before the highway turns east, take the north extension (Highway 56) to ghost town **Rowley**, where *Bye Bye Blues* (1988), a story about a war time wife and mother who joins a local dance band to provide for her family was filmed. At that time residents erected a large billboard, “Rowleywood” on a hill overlooking the highway.



Nickelback
Courtesy Hanna Herald

Back on Highway 9 heading east, a short drive south on Highway 851 takes you to **Delia** and locations for the 2001 film *Knockaround Guys*.



Former Hanna high school,
Hanna – Nickelback
Photograph Video
Courtesy Laurie Armstrong

Again on Highway 9, about 40 km east is **Hanna**, hometown of the rock group Nickelback. The band returned here to film the video of its song *Photograph*. Those familiar with the song can find several of the locales in the video, including the **former Hanna high school**. Hockey Hall of Famer Lanny McDonald started his hockey career in Hanna .

The Depression-era tale *Why Shoot The Teacher* was filmed here in 1977, with Bud Cort and Samantha Eggar.

Hanna to Brooks

From **Hanna**, we’ll head south on Highway 36 to **Brooks** for a ride with the *Texas Rangers* (2001). *Texas Rangers* had star power, with Dylan McDermott, Randy Travis, Ashton Kutcher, Tom Skerritt, Robert Patrick and Alfred Molina. The **Brooks** area filled in for 1875 Texas in this 2001 story of the origins of the famous lawmen.

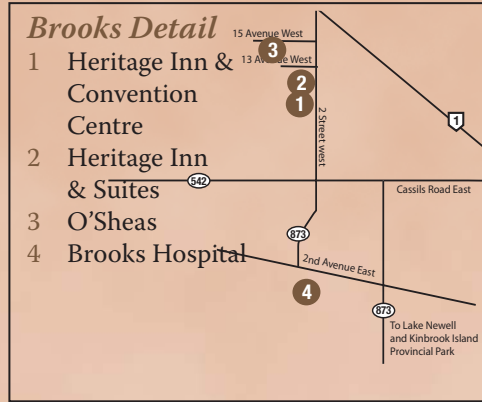


Rowley Yesteryear Artifacts
Museum, Rowley
Courtesy Travel Alberta

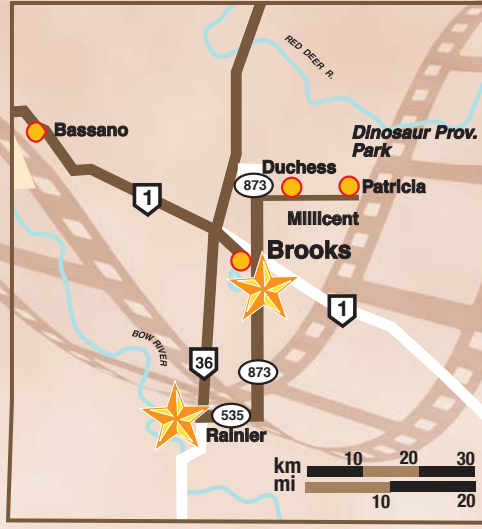
In **Brooks**, you can stay at the **Heritage Inn and Convention Centre**, which had a room specifically re-designed for Clint Eastwood during the filming of *Unforgiven* (1994). Morgan Freeman, Eastwood’s co-star, also stayed here. Next door at the **Heritage Inn and Suites**, Robin Williams took a room while filming *RV*; there is an autographed picture of Williams in the lobby. At 119 – 15th Avenue West, you’ll find another favourite

eating stop for Robin Williams: **O'Shea's** (once called Egan's Restaurant & Irish Ale House).

Brooks Hospital lays claim to having had Clint Eastwood as a patient. The actor had a minor injury while filming *Unforgiven*; he was treated by Dr. Lyle Oberg, who later served as Alberta's finance minister. Oberg was later invited to the *Unforgiven* set.



Lake Newell Courtesy Palliser Economic Partnership



Sidetrips from Brooks

If you're up for more dinosaur hunting, Brooks is slightly southwest of **Dinosaur Provincial Park**. North on Highway 873 is the recommended route to this breathtaking land of hoodoos set amid prairie grasses in what truly is the Alberta badlands. Enjoy interpretive bus tours and hikes as you scope out the spectacular badlands scenery, fossils and wildlife.

At **Brooks**, a nudge south of the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway #1), you're just

- MOVIES FILMED IN THE REGION**
- BADLANDS**
 - Wild Horse Hank (1978)
 - (Dinosaur Provincial Park)
 - BROOKS**
 - RV (2006)
 - Texas Rangers (2001)
 - A Simple Wish/Fairy Godmother (1996)
 - Two Brothers, A Girl and A Gun (1992)
 - Unforgiven (1991)

two hours east of Calgary, but in a different world. If you've got time to cast about, the area's lakes teem with trout. **Lake Newell**, located south of Brooks on Highway 873, features **Kinbrook Island Provincial Park**. The lake is a haven for migrating birds, watchable from three sanctuaries.

Going along Highway 873 will lead you to the intersection of Highway 535, where at **Rainier**, you can take a page from the Munro-Gornicke *RV* guidebook and stop for fuel at the **Prairie Oasis**.

Brooks to Calgary

Highway 535 crosses Highway 36, which intersects with the Trans-Canada Highway. The Trans-Canada Highway takes you back to Calgary. About 40 km down the road is **Bassano**, home of the **Prairie Schooner Hotel**, one of the locations for *Knockaround Guys*.

From **Bassano** your drive back to **Calgary** is about 140 km on Highway #1.

