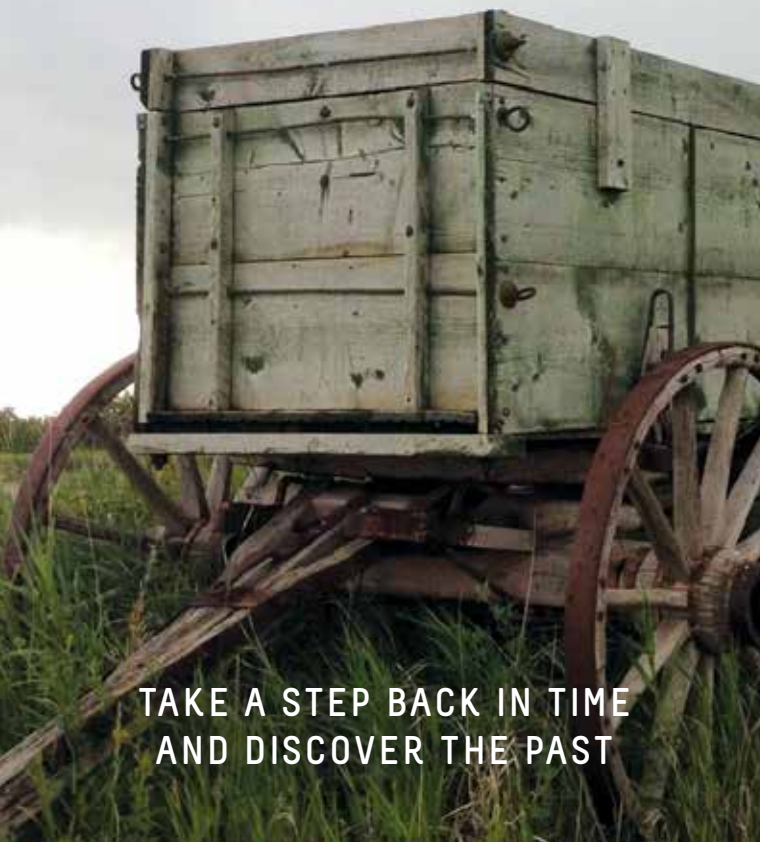


# HERITAGE TRAILS OF THE PRAIRIE MOUNTAINS



TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME AND DISCOVER THE PAST

The Prairie Mountain area—comprised of the Rossburn Municipality and the Rural Municipality of Yellowhead in west central Manitoba—is rich in history.

It is respectfully acknowledged that the area is located on Treaty 2 territory, the land and gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including Anishinabeg, Ojibway, and Métis Nation long before settlers arrived. We acknowledge further the harms of the past and present colonization and we commit to meaningful partnerships with Indigenous nations. While we are highlighting the stories of the settlers with this particular publication, we would be honoured to be allowed to learn and tell about the traditions and history of those who cared for the land long before.

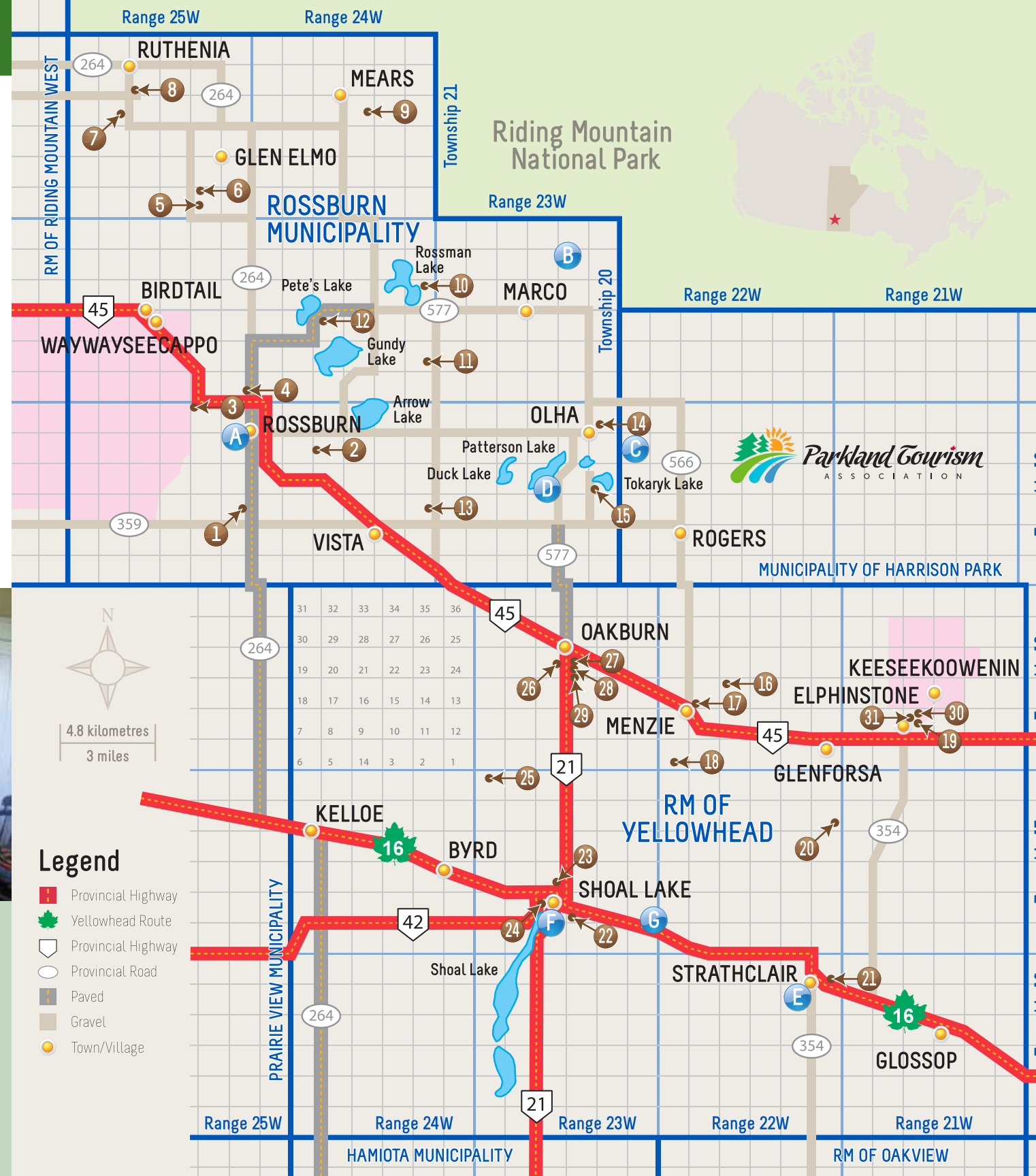
The arrival of the railway early in the 20th century brought an influx of European settlers to the Prairie Mountains, transforming the area into one of the richest grain-producing regions in the world. As the plow transformed grasslands to fields of grain, so too did the hearts of the settlers transform the landscape of the region. The lingering spirit of these pioneers can still be felt in the area's historical sites and buildings, some of which are highlighted here.



6  
Prairie Mountain Regional Museum

### NAVIGATING MANITOBA'S LAND NUMBERING SYSTEM

Searching for a particular section of land? a pioneer homestead? Parcels of land in Manitoba are numbered using the Section-Township-Range system. A section is a parcel of land 1 mile x 1 mile (approx. 1.6 km x 1.6 km). A township is a group of 36 sections (numbered as shown at right, starting at the SE section) forming an area 6 miles x 6 miles in size (approx. 9.6 km x 9.6 km). At right, the parcel numbered 36 is designated as 36-18-24W (Section 36, Township 18, Range 24 West of the Prime Meridian, a line of longitude near Winnipeg). Sometimes NE, NW, SE or SW precedes the Section-Township-Range designation. This indicates a 160 acre parcel of land (1/4 mile x 1/4 mile, or 0.4 km x 0.4 km) in the corresponding quarter of the section (e.g. SW 36-18-24 W).



- Legend**
- Provincial Highway
  - Yellowhead Route
  - Provincial Highway
  - Provincial Road
  - Paved
  - Gravel
  - Town/Village

## Museums & Historic Sites

- A Rossburn Museum
- B Marconi School
- C Buddas
- D Mass Grave Site
- E Strathclair Museum
- F Shoal Lake Mounted Police Museum
- G Prairie Mountain Regional Museum

## Churches & Cemeteries

- 1 St. Elish Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery
- 2 St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery
- 3 Rossburn Municipal Cemetery
- 4 Sacred Heart of Jesus Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery
- 5 Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery – Glen Elmo
- 6 Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church – Glen Elmo
- 7 Ukrainian Settlement Cemetery – 16 persons
- 8 Ukrainian Catholic Ascension Cemetery – Ruthenia
- 9 Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery Mohyla
- 10 Christ the King Catholic Cemetery
- 11 St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church & Cemetery
- 12 St. John's Ukrainian United Church Cemetery
- 13 Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery – Vista
- 14 St. Michael's Ukr. Catholic Church & Cemetery
- 15 St. John Cantius Catholic Church & Cemetery
- 16 Menzie Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery
- 17 Menzie Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery
- 18 Hepworth St. George Anglican Cemetery
- 19 Elphinstone Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery
- 20 The Bend Cemetery
- 21 Strathclair Municipal Cemetery
- 22 St. Helen's Catholic Cemetery
- 23 Shoal Lake Cemetery
- 24 Thompson Cemetery
- 25 Argyle Cemetery
- 26 Oakburn Orthodox Cemetery
- 27 Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church – Oakburn
- 28 St. Catherines Roman Catholic Cemetery
- 29 Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Holy Eucharist Cemetery
- 30 Keeseekoowenin Cemetery
- 31 St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery



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6  
Prairie Mountain Regional Museum

For more information visit [parklandtourism.com](http://parklandtourism.com)

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HISTORIC SITES, MUSEUMS, CHURCHES, AND CEMETERIES OF WESTERN MANITOBA'S PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN REGION

## Rural Routes & Roots of the Parkland



A

### Rossburn Museum

72 Cheddar Avenue, Rossburn

The museum features a replica Ukrainian village with a model church and thatch-roofed homes and buildings detailed even to the interior furniture. Displays include a country schoolroom, hospital room, Ukrainian pioneer kitchen, and a period hairdressing salon, as well as a printing press, agricultural tools, firefighting equipment, war uniforms and other local artifacts. Phone 204-859-2779 or 204-859-2429.



B

### Marconi School

Near Marco

Built in 1922 with an opening class of 69 students, the school was in operation until 1958. In 1984, a school reunion inspired volunteers to maintain the building and in 1990, Marconi School was designated a Municipal Heritage Site. By 1992, it was restored. One-room schools built after World War I were modest in size and amenities, but 20 years later they were built to a standardized design produced by the Department of Education and adapted from domestic styles of the day—a cottage look. Marconi School has an attached 3-room teacherage. Travel north from Rossburn on PR264 to PR577; continue past the lake and turn north at the Marconi School sign. Phone 204-859-2779.



C

### Buddas

Near Olha

When Ukrainian settlers first arrived in the area west of Riding Mountain in 1899, their first homes were small, tent-shaped pole structures thatched with hay, known as buddas. Michael Swistun was born in a budda in 1900 and later constructed two of them on the original site near the settlement trail. Follow PR577 to Olha and follow the signs. Phone 204-859-2779.



D

### Mass Grave & Ukrainian Settlement Monument

Patterson Lake

A large and impressive granite and bronze monument commemorating the 100th anniversary of

Ukrainian settlement in Canada also marks the site where, in 1899, 42 children and three adults succumbed to scarlet fever on their way to homesteads being surveyed nearby. When a virulent strain of the fever and measles broke out in the group of 400 immigrants, the settlers had to be quarantined near Patterson Lake. A late spring snow storm combined with inadequate food and shelter caused the entire camp to become ill. Tiny wooden crosses that marked the shallow mass grave near the camp did not last and in 1915 a simple birch cross was erected. In 1941, a small concrete monument was built to mark the 50th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada and the site was designated a Municipal Heritage Site in 1990. From Olha, drive 4.2 km south on PR577 to the sign, and 1.5 km west; or from Oakburn, proceed 5.5 km north to the sign. Phone 204-859-2779.

### Strathclair Museum

33 Main Street, Strathclair

The restored CPR station and residence located on Main Street in Strathclair is home to a collection of local artifacts and memorabilia. But of special interest is the fact that it also houses the original St. George's Hepworth Anglican Church and a blacksmith shop. Phone 204-759-2565.



E

### Shoal Lake Mounted Police Museum

201-1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Shoal Lake

During their historic 1874 journey west, the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) built a barracks south of Shoal Lake in 1875. The museum is a replica of the original barracks and houses a collection of NWMP and early Royal Canadian Mounted Police items along with artifacts from the pioneers in the area at that time. Phone 204-759-3326.



F



G

### Prairie Mountain Regional Museum

East of Shoal Lake on PTH16

The 80-acre museum site includes five buildings donated from surrounding communities, the Olha schoolhouse being one of them. The Clegg Building houses a collection of restored carriages and cutters. In the fall, produce from the museum garden is sold at the Shoal Lake Farmers' Market. Bags of potatoes are also available on Harvest Day. Group Tours with carriage rides and lunch can be booked. Located on PTH16 between Strathclair and Shoal Lake. Phone 204-759-2245.

### Rossburn Municipal Cemetery

West of Rossburn on PTH45

This cemetery is the final resting place of the Ross family. Richard Rose Ross (1843-1904) was the founder of Rossburn. Originally from Richmond, Ontario, he came to the area in 1879 and served first as CAO in 1884 and later as Reeve until 1904. The first school in the area was in the Ross home and Mr. Ross was instrumental in establishing a store and post office, and in bringing in the railway.



6

### Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church

Near Glen Elmo

Built in 1928 with timber from Riding Mountain, this Ukrainian Orthodox church is a fine example of a popular church design in which a simple gabled nave section was embellished with the addition of corner towers and a raised centre dome. Both towers and dome are crowned with traditional banyas. The church was restored in 1997 and has been a municipally designated site since 1991. From Rossburn, travel north on PR264 and follow the signs. Phone 204-859-2508, 204-859-2240 or 204-859-2729.

### The Bend Cemetery

Southwest of Elphinstone

Land set aside for this cemetery in April 1888 was deeded to the municipality by the surveyor, Duncan Sinclair, endorsed in Bottineau County, Dakota, USA, and registered at the county office in Minnedosa by June of the same year. Mr. Sinclair was buried here in a gravesite facing north toward the North Star. A monument stands at the gravesite of the first Galician children who died from a scarlet fever epidemic in 1899. More children and adults succumbed as the group of settlers from Galacia, Ukraine, made their way northwest toward Patterson Lake. A tall cross now marks the mass grave site at the lake (see "D").

### St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church & Cemetery

Olha

Built in 1904, this is one of the oldest of the local churches and was known as "Central." The original belfry, constructed in 1915, was later sold. Jacob Maydaniuk painted the interior ceiling and icons in 1927. Churches, for the Ukrainian immigrants, were the one cultural connection to the home country and are among their proudest legacies. St. Michael's is an excellent example of a type distinguished by its cross-shaped plan, twin towers and central cupola. It became a Municipal Heritage Site in 1990. Phone 204-234-5236.



14

### St. John Cantius Catholic Church

South of Olha

Built in 1929 at a cost of \$6,000, this church is set on a traditional basilica plan with a long, tall nave. The tower sections are crowned with a tall spire. Pointed arches cap the windows and doors. The church served both Polish and Ukrainian settlers for a few years until separate Ukrainian churches were built. Prior to this, Father Kulaway visited the settlers on horseback and held mass at the Hrycak home. St. John Cantius became a Municipal Heritage Site in 1991. Located southeast of Olha off PR577.

15



Photo by Enviro Foto