

Virtual Tour  
“Flashback”

*Welcome to this adventure. Today, you will be taken on a trip back in time. Come and join us and explore what it was like to come to a strange, cold but beautiful country. Throughout this tour, you will collect clues that will bring you to the final location. We hope that you will have as much fun traveling in time as we had creating this tour and that you will learn a lot too! The tour takes about 3-5 hours to complete. Historical data courtesy of the Rossgburn Historical Association’s history books, On The Sunny Slopes of the Riding Mountains.*

*At the end of the tour, you will have collected five different letters. Use them with those given to form a word related to our tour.*

**Settlement**

The government of Canada wished to get western Canada settled as soon as possible. They had a plan whereby a homestead of 160 acres could be had for the sum of \$10.00 and show some improvements – build a dwelling and breaking or cropping a patch of land.

It was 1879 before anyone settled permanently in Rossgburn. A great majority [of settlers] walked all the way and waded through water. One reports wading through a stretch of twenty miles with water from your knees to your waist. If you had a wagon or Red River cart your possessions took all the room so it was necessary to walk. It took 3 weeks or more on the average to get from Winnipeg to Shoal Lake.

=====

“The naming of Rossgburn” Coordinates: N 50° 40.110’ / W 100° 48.160’

A memorial cairn erected on the southeast corner of the Rossgburn Town Hall property in 1970, honours the pioneer settler for whom this community was named.

*Clue #1: First letter of Mr. Ross’ middle name*

=====

Virtual Tour  
“Flashback”

**First settlers**

The first settlers R. R. Ross, W. Peden, J. Broadfoot, Hugh and Samuel Warnock and Bob Murray came by the south trail, James and Joseph Stitt by the north trail. They met up at Minnedosa and travelled west from there together [...] and went on until they came to the Birdtail. Being satisfied with the supply of lumber, grass, water and good soil they decided to locate.

=====

“Ghost Town” Coordinates: N 50° 43.845’ / W 100° 53.299’

The history dates back to the arrival of the railroad. The main reason for the establishment of this siding was the easily available water supply needed for the railway steam engines. The original name was Roche – shown on some early maps and later changed to Birdtail Siding because of its location on the Birdtail River.

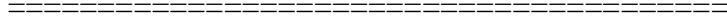
As transportation became more abundant, the little hamlet began to suffer the consequences of more prosperous times. Small businesses gradually closed down as the local people travelled to the larger centres. The one elevator which is privately owned still remains.

*Clue #2: Last letter of spelled out month on smaller plaque*

=====

Meanwhile, in 1899, mass Ukrainian and Polish immigration began. These people left the beautiful orchards and meadows of the western Ukraine and often found themselves in the cold, unforgettable winter of Canada. But, despite the drawbacks, Canada had its lure also. In this cold, frozen country was the hope of peace and freedom. These people escaped the brutal treatment of authoritarians by coming and settling the New Land. Galicia, from which most Ukrainians come, was under the rule of Austria. The rest of Ukraine was under the authority of Russia.

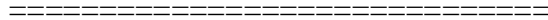
Virtual Tour  
"Flashback"



"Religious gathering" Coordinates: N 50° 40.161' / W 100° 33.289'

Olha is one of the oldest settlements in this area as it was to this area that the early pioneers emigrated in 1899. This church was the first Ukrainian Catholic church and was also known as the "Central" church as it served the spiritual needs of its faithful from many miles around. It was built on a well cleared area approximately 8 miles north of Oakburn on six acres of land donated by Wasyl Luhowy.

*Clue #3: Use the decoder; Letter obtained from the last number of the year above the front door.*



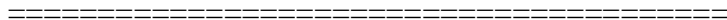
The peasants were crowded on ships with animals as companions. Many of the Ukrainians were in the hold of the ship, which proved to be rather uncomfortable for such a long voyage – no windows, no fresh air. Often, diseases hit the passengers in the dirty, musty hold of the ships. The people who took those ships would never forget the voyage to Canada.

Eventually though, the immigrants finally arrived in Canada. After filing for their homesteads, they set out on the trek to their homes. The land that was set aside for them to homestead was the poorer quality land.

Point of interest "Buddas" Coordinates: N 50° 39.648' / W 100° 31.286' (NO clue here!)

When the Ukrainian settlers arrived in 1899, their first homes were small tent-shaped pole structures covered with straw, known as buddas. Michael Swistun, who was born in a budda in 1900, later constructed two buddas on the original site next to the settlement trail and donated them to Rossburn as a historic site.

One of the first groups of Ukrainians who came in 1899, were detained in Strathclair for several days.



"Commemoration " Coordinates: N 50° 38.475' / W 100° 35.635'

On April 5, 1899 a steamer called Armenia had left Hamburg, Germany, for Canada carrying 353 adults and 194 children. A few days later the S. S. Palatia also sailed with 398 adults and 171 children.

Because of many sick children, families were detained and quarantined at Strathclair, while others left for Patterson Lake. Fourteen wagons carrying women and children,

Virtual Tour  
"Flashback"

with men following on foot left Strathclair on May 10, 1899, to live in a temporary settlement until their land was surveyed.

That night, while everyone slept, a freak Canadian snowstorm dumped two inches of snow on this area. With the harsh weather and the epidemic which was identified as a particularly malignant type of Scarlet Fever, the pioneers faced a bleak future.

The snow melted the same day, but the epidemic continued with a tragic toll as forty-two children and three adults died in a two week period.

Close to the tent was a fresh cemetery of considerable size. There were new graves every day. The little graves were marked with wooden crosses. Following a three week quarantine, the settlers left for their respective homesteads and began the arduous task of developing a community.

*Clue #4: On monument commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of Ukrainian settlement, the last letter of first spelled out number (in the normal reading order)*

=====

Often the men, in order to get some money, and in turn establish themselves as farmers, had to go to work for other already established farmers. The husbands left their wives for months at a time, leaving the tending of the farm and house to the wife. Often the women had to fend off animals and prairie fires which were new and quite unusual tasks for them.

=====

"Century Family Farms Awards" Coordinates: N 50° 35.675' / W 100° 45.300'

Recognition of Manitoba Century Family Farms is an honour that has been received by several families who have farmed or held ownership of the same land for at least one hundred years in the area.

*Clue #5: First letter of the only named country on plaque*

=====

Over the years, the original settlers of Anglo-Saxon origin and the later settlers of Ukrainian origin, although unfamiliar with each other's customs and languages and at times dubious of each other's integrity, moulded together a community through their hard work and perseverance, making life so much more comfortable and enjoyable for the succeeding generations.

---

Decoder:									
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Virtual Tour  
“Flashback”

*To help you find the code, here are two more letters:*

*Clue #1: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Clue #2: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Clue #3: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Clue #4: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Clue #5: \_\_\_\_\_*

*T*

*L*

*Unscramble the letters to form a word and use the code to register on the following websites:*

- *Log on to [www.cachingridingmountain.ca](http://www.cachingridingmountain.ca) to register your find using the code and enter your name in the contest.*
- *Log on to [www.town.rossburn.mb.ca](http://www.town.rossburn.mb.ca) to register your find and to get more information regarding this tour (complete text and add-ons)*