



Historic Sites  
Community Gardens  
Museums  
Churches  
Cemeteries

# Lost Trails

of the Prairie Mountains

Rural Municipalities of Birtle, Rossburn, Shoal Lake and Strathclair • Towns of Birtle, Rossburn and Shoal Lake • MANITOBA

## Join us in an exploration of our past.

The **Prairie Mountain Tourism** area — comprised of the Rural Municipalities of Birtle, Rossburn, Shoal Lake and Strathclair, and the towns of Birtle, Shoal Lake and Rossburn in west central Manitoba — is rich in history. When the railway arrived at the turn of the 20th century, more European settlers arrived, transforming the area into one of the richest grain-producing regions in the world. As the plow transformed grasslands to fields ripe with grain, so too did the hearts of the settlers transform the cultural landscape of the region. The lingering spirit of these pioneers can be felt in every church and school, every field and forest to which these pioneers applied themselves. Your journey throughout the area is sure to be rich in the heritage of distant lands and cultures.

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# Map of Museums, Historic Sites and Cemeteries of Manitoba's Prairie Mountain Tourism Area

- ### CHURCHES & CEMETERIES
- 1 St. Eliah 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 Ukr. 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 Solsgirth Cemetery
  - 27 Foxwarren Cemetery
  - 28 Birtle & District Cemetery
  - 29 Old Birtle & District Cemetery
  - 30 Zion Cemetery
  - 31 Oakburn Orthodox Cemetery
  - 32 St. Catherines Roman Catholic Cemetery
  - 33 Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Holy Eucharist Cemetery
  - 34 Keeseekoowenin Cemetery
  - 35 St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery

### LEGEND OF SYMBOLS

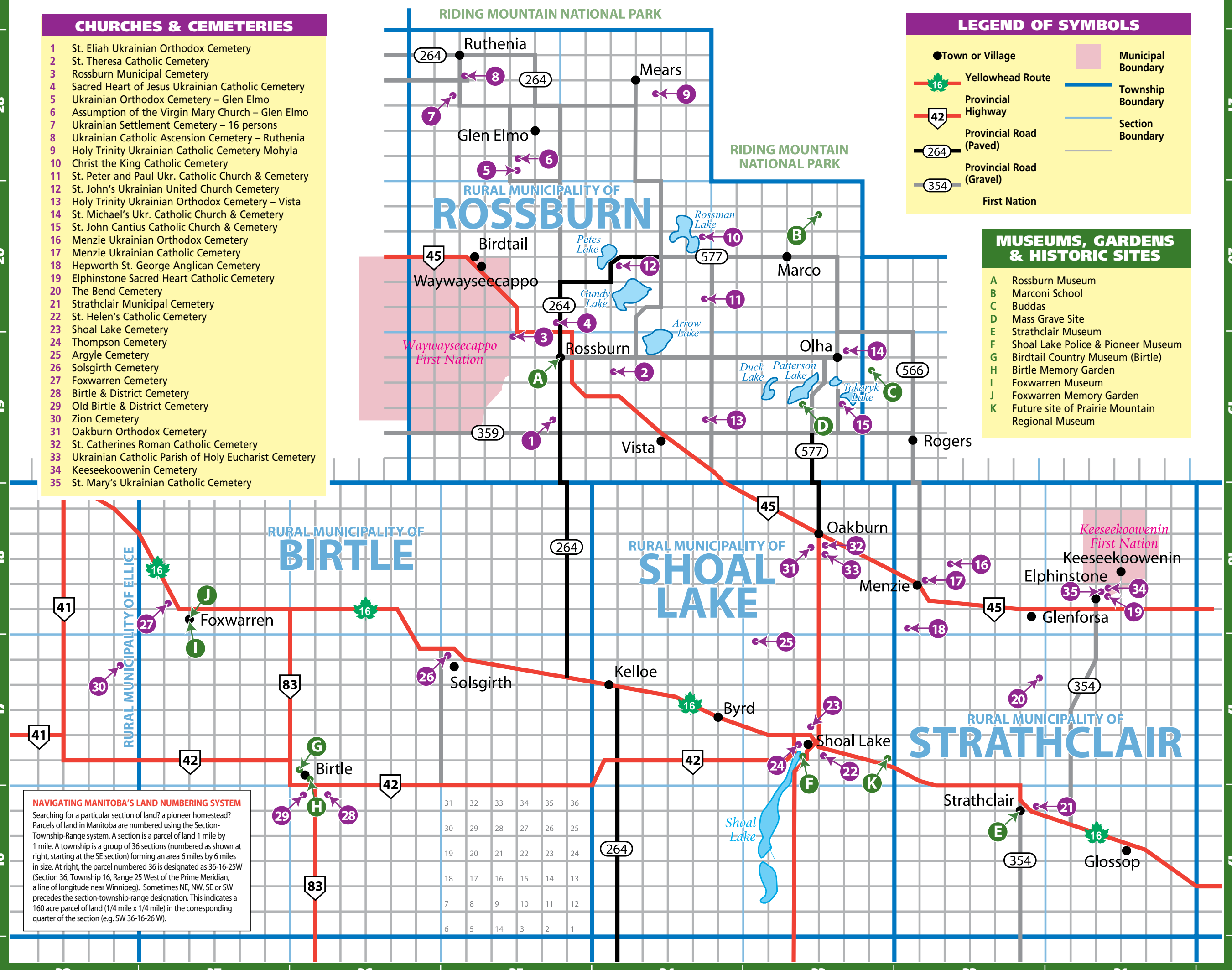
- Town or Village
- Yellowhead Route
- Provincial Highway
- Provincial Road (Paved)
- Provincial Road (Gravel)
- First Nation
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Section Boundary

- ### MUSEUMS, GARDENS & HISTORIC SITES
- A Rossburn Museum
  - B Marconi School
  - C Buddas
  - D Mass Grave Site
  - E Strathclair Museum
  - F Shoal Lake Police & Pioneer Museum
  - G Birdtail Country Museum (Birtle)
  - H Birtle Memory Garden
  - I Foxwarren Museum
  - J Foxwarren Memory Garden
  - K Future site of 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 by 1 mile. A township is a group of 36 sections (numbered as shown at right, starting at the SE section) forming an area 6 miles by 6 miles in size. At right, the parcel numbered 36 is designated as 36-16-25W (Section 36, Township 16, Range 25 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) in the corresponding quarter of the section (e.g. SW 36-16-26 W).

31	32	33	34	35	36
30	29	28	27	26	25
19	20	21	22	23	24
18	17	16	15	14	13
7	8	9	10	11	12
6	5	14	3	2	1



TOWNSHIP 21 28 20 19 18 17 16

TOWNSHIP 22 21 20 19 18 17 16

# MUSEUMS, GARDENS & HISTORIC SITES



Rossburn Museum

## A ROSSBURN 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 school-room, 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. Cheddar Ave. in Rossburn, phone 204-859-2429.



Marconi School

## B MARCONI SCHOOL

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. From Rossburn, 5 km north on PR264, 16 km east on PR577 to the sign indicating where to turn left. Phone 204-859-2429.



## C BUDDAS

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 204-859-2762.



Buddas

## D MASS GRAVE AND UKRAINIAN SETTLEMENT MONUMENT

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 3 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, 4.2 km south on PR577 to the sign, and 1.5 km west or from Oakburn, 5.5 km north to the sign. Phone 204-859-2762.



Ukrainian Settlement Monument



Strathclair Museum

## E STRATHCLAIR MUSEUM

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 204-365-2196.



Shoal Lake Police and Pioneer Museum

## F SHOAL LAKE POLICE AND PIONEER MUSEUM

During their historic 1874 journey west, the Northwest Mounted Police 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 RCMP items along with artifacts from the pioneers in the area at that time. Phone 204-759-2429



Birdtail Country Museum

## G BIRDTAIL COUNTRY MUSEUM

Displays of local artifacts collected since the museum's opening in 1984 are showcased on the main floor of this former bank. The vault is used for document storage and at one time it served to protect as many items as could be packed inside when a fire broke out next door. The upstairs has been re-created as a 1903 home. Phone 204-842-3363.



Birtle Memory Garden

## H BIRTLE MEMORY GARDEN

A wooden rose arbor, an historical bell suspended in a steel tower shading a granite plaque of names, stone and wood benches and thousands of fragrant and colourful flowers create the beautifully designed Birtle Memory Garden. Being situated in the heart of town makes this spot an exceptionally pleasant place to enjoy lunch or a coffee break, alone or with friends.

## I FOXWARREN MUSEUM

Located in the former St. George's Anglican Church (built in 1906), the Foxwarren Museum houses the church's altar and three rows of pews, along with a pioneer home display of Foxwarren artifacts. The museum also houses the records of many community organizations that are no longer in operation. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, from May to October, or on request.



Foxwarren Memory Garden

## J FOXWARREN MEMORY GARDEN

Almost one acre of flowers, paths and hundreds of hand-crafted stepping stones occupy the space that was once busy with pioneer enterprises. This serene and beautiful garden is an ongoing project, changing and growing annually.

# CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES



Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church

## 6 ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY CHURCH

Built in 1928 with timber from Riding Mountain, this Ukrainian Orthodox church is a fine example of a popular church design where 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 204-859-2762 or 859-2527.



St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church

## 14 ST. MICHAEL'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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.

## 15 ST. JOHN CANTIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Built in 1929 at a cost of \$6000, 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 the 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. Phone 204-234-5236.

St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church Cemetery (see #14)



## 20 THE BEND CEMETERY

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.

## 27 FOXWARREN CEMETERIES

Established in 1902, the first has 23 registered graves; the second has 461. At one time there was a crematory between the sites, then an abattoir and now the land belongs to the Rural Municipality of Birtle. Near the west side of the larger cemetery is an iron cross marking the grave of an unknown man who fell from a moving box car and was killed.

## 28 29 BIRTLE'S CEMETERIES

The first cemetery, used from 1878 until 1882, is situated 1-1/2 miles southwest of town, overlooking the beautiful Birdtail River valley. Short lifespans indicated on many headstones reflect the arduous lives of the pioneers, danger and disease being constant threats. Headstones mark 13 sites and an estimated 17 remain unmarked. Adjacent to the cemetery is a lone oak tree, marking the gravesite of three children from the Morton family, original settlers in the area. Birtle's current cemetery is 1/2 mile east of town on Highway 42. Burial records are kept at the Town office.

## 30 ZION CEMETERY

When lots were sold, residents bought according to where they lived in relation to the cemetery. Those living to the west of the cemetery bought plots on the west side, those on the east purchased on the east side and so on. The first interment in this cemetery was in December 1891. Three young children were buried here shortly after the Zion Church was established. With no consecrated ground nearby, two of them had been buried on the homestead when they died and were moved when another of the children also passed away. Following WWII, population had diminished and the church was closed. In 1958 it was dismantled and markers were bought for any unmarked graves. By 1988, an expansion to the east was planned.



Argyle Cemetery (#25)