

# Quick Facts About Bow Island & Area



# Our History

The community of Bow Island received its first families in 1900. In February 1910, the village of Bow Island was formed and on February 1st of 1912 the village was declared the Town of Bow Island.

The town of Bow Island was one of the first towns in the province of Alberta to have natural gas wells and operated them until the franchise was sold to a private company. The community of Bow Island suffered through the depression years, as did all the communities in Western Canada.

In the early 1950's irrigation was extended to the Bow Island area. The Town of Bow Island doubled in population when irrigation water finally flowed through the ditches. 110,000 acres of highly productive lands surround the Town of Bow Island. Some of the most modern irrigation systems in the world are located in the area. The first pivot sprinkler system in Canada was erected on a farm in close proximity to Bow Island in 1961. The first linear sprinkler systems in Canada were put into operation in the Bow Island area. A completely automated distribution system was installed in 1982 by the St. Mary's River Irrigation District (SMRID) This system is known as the lateral 12 system and has been toured by groups from around the world.

Bow Island has become a vibrant agricultural community with many agri-processing industries located here, such as: Bow Island Dry Edible Bean Plant and Alberta Sunflower Seeds Ltd. (SPITZ)

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## **TOWN OF BOW ISLAND**

The story has it that Bow Island was named for an island in a bend of “bow” in the South Saskatchewan River directly north of town, where river boats used to unload coal in the early years.

Another story says the town was named after an island at the confluence of the Bow and Oldman Rivers. That island is 24km west of Bow Island and directly north of the hamlet of Grassy Lake, which became a community at an earlier date in history than did Bow Island.

The most logical story, or at least the most interesting one, related that just south of the town of Bow Island lay a large slough, full of water by spring. However, as summer approached, tall grass grew and the water dried up, thereby becoming a grassy lake. Directly north of the hamlet of Grassy Lake is an island in the Bow River, obviously Bow Island. However, in the official listing of place names, the two communities got reversed and Bow Island became Grassy Lake, while Grassy Lake became Bow Island.

## **POPULATION OF BOW ISLAND**

2025 people

## **POPULATION OF THE COUNTY OF 40 MILE**

3036 people

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## **A CENTURY IN SCARLET**

This cairn is situated at the Visitor Information Center to commemorate the coming of the NWMP to Alberta. The original trek is just north of the town.

## **BANK OF NORTH AMERICA RESIDENCE 425-3 St. W**

This residence was built for the first manager of the Bank of North America in 1909. It still sits on the corner lot as a private residence.

## **BERT KNIBBS BALL PARK**

Bert Knibbs Ball Park sports ball diamonds, a soccer field, a playground, and a newly renovated facility that can be used for home-comings, family reunions, and sports events.

## **CENTENNIAL PARK**

Centennial Park was started in 1967 and today is a well treed, green park with a great playground. Camp stalls with electricity and water have been installed as well as showers and bathrooms. Group Camping is available at the south end of the park (reservations only) along with a beach volleyball court and horseshoe pitch.

## **BOW THEATRE 229-5 Ave W**

Built as Hoaglin's Store in 1910. Since then, it has housed live entertainment, a dance hall, a WW1 vet's club and a roller skating rink. In 1948, it opened as the Pearl Theatre and in 1952, was renamed the Bow Theatre which operated until 1985. In 1993, the Bow Island Historical Society refurbished the building which now attracts blues entertainment from all over America.

## **CHUCK CHUEN STORE 121-5 Ave W**

Opened as a restaurant in 1909 named the "Queen Café". In August of that year, Chuck Chuen's son joined him, groceries were added, and the name changed to "Chuck Chuen." In 1967, Mr. Chuen was presented with a plaque honoring him for being the only businessman to have operated a business continuously for fifty years in the town of Bow Island.

# Quick Facts About Bow Island & Area

## **ERNA'S BERRY FARM & COUNTRY CAFÉ + MINI GOLF**

(Located on the corner of Highway #3 and Highway #879)

Serving breakfast, lunch, early suppers, ice cream, and lots of desserts. Open from 8AM to 6PM, Monday through Saturday. Open on Sundays by request. Phone: (403)977-0496 Email: orachard@shockware.com

## **ETZIKOM MUSEUM**

The museum has over 11,000 square feet of display area and four additional acres for future expansion. It features hundreds of unique artifacts and antiques relating to the early homestead days of southern Alberta. One of the feature attractions is the main street of an early town including a general store, a hotel, a school, a blacksmith shop, a barber shop and a post office. Others include a music room, a history room, clothing displays and several other memorabilia. Outdoors, the self-guided tour includes many windmills. Located 18 km east of Bow Island and 76km south on highway 885.

## **FARMER'S MARKET**

From July 14 until September 20, the Golden Age Center hosts the Farmer's Market every Friday from 2:30PM to 4:30PM.

## **GOLD SHEAF PARK**

Golden Sheaf Park is ideal for waterskiing, boating, fishing, and camping. It is a prairie oasis with its manicured campsites, great playground and sandy beach. It is ideal for families throughout the whole summer. Located east of Bow Island (24 km west of Medicine Hat along the Folsom Road).

## **GARBAGE DAY**

Garbage pick-up runs on Tuesday's for the East side and Thursday's for the West side.

# Quick Facts About Bow Island & Area

## **GOLF COURSE**

The local nine-hole golf course is one of the best in Alberta. The clubhouse includes a restaurant and lounge along with a Pro Shop that offers cart rentals. Website: [www.bowislandgolf.ca](http://www.bowislandgolf.ca)  
Phone: (403)545-2718 Email: [bigolf@shockware.com](mailto:bigolf@shockware.com)

## **OLD GLORY**

Bow Island received world recognition in 1909 with the blowing in of the "Old Glory" gas well, drilled near the CPR pump house at the river. It was the biggest producer of natural gas at that time and Bow Island became known as "the town that lights up the west." It was the first commercial field in Alberta and for many decades, gas was pumped to Calgary and Lethbridge as well as many other towns. It closed in 1996.

\*Note: Eugene Coste, founder of what was Canadian Natural Gas (now ATCO) discovered the Bow Island gas field in 1906. Well is situated at the Visitor Information Center.

## **PAKOWKI LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY**

Pakowki Lake is one of the biggest lakes in Southern Alberta and is located 25km south-east of Etzikom. The name "Pakowki" or "Peek-opee" as it appears on the Palliser Map of 1865, is said to be derived from a Blackfoot word meaning "bad water." Long periods of time between fillings and years of evaporation of the lake water resulted in both stagnation and concentration of salts. The lake is home to common and rare bird species alike. Double-crested cormorants, black-crowned night herons, marsh wrens, cinnamon teals and American bitterns are a common sight. Rarer species include the Eurasian wigeon, black-necked stilt, snowy egret and the white-faced ibis.

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## **PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKS**

Playgrounds: St. Michaels School, Bow Island Elementary School and Senator Gershaw School, all situated on 1st Avenue, have a variety of playground equipment.

Others: Jubilee Park at the Arena, Funshine Park next to Bert Knibbs Ball Park and Centennial Park

Camping and Group Activity: Centennial Park on Center Street South, Group Camp on south end of Centennial Park for reunions, etc. and Bert Knibbs Ball Park is also a good place for reunions and/or outdoor recreation.

## **PROVINCE'S 100th BIRTHDAY**

The marker (large stone) at the east side of the Visitor Information Center commemorates the province's 100th birthday in 2005. It shows that former boundaries of NWT/Assiniboia Territory (now Alberta) Original boundary is just east of Bow Island.

## **PINTO MCBEAN (The biggest pinto bean in the WORLD)**

Pinto McBean was erected at the Visitor Information Center in 1992. He has been featured in many Canadian magazines and is one of the most photographed mascots around.

Pinto's Legend: The infamous stealing of Pinto's gun is no small task for vandals. Nonetheless, it has been stolen numerous times and with some detective work, it has been taken back several times as well.

## **MORE OF "THE WORLD'S LARGEST"**

The world's largest golf putter (heralding the nine hole Bow Island Golf Course. Also, there's a giant steel sunflower and an Oil derrick.

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## **RED ROCK COULEE**

This area is located on an 800-acre site 25km south of Seven Persons on highway 887. This badland area features alternate layers of sandstone and clay-capped hoodoos. It is also a good place to hike and observe geological wonders. Red Rock Coulee contains many interesting features including mixed grasslands and badlands. The most striking features are the large rounded boulders called sandstone concretions measuring 2.5m across. Because this area is so fragile, visitors are required to enjoy it on foot only.

## **SCHOOL BELL 1 Ave. E**

The original Bow Island Public School was built in 1918 and remained until 1978. When it was tore down, the school bell was salvaged and put on display at the Library. In 2001, a cairn was built to hold the bell and was dedicated to the parents, students and teachers who were involved with the “Old Brick School.” It is now located near the entrance of Bow Island Elementary School.

## **SOCCER FIELDS**

There are soccer fields at Centennial Park, Bert Knibbs Ball Park and the various schools situated on 1st Ave.

## **Campgrounds:**

Centennial Park:

- Open May—September
- Cost:
  - ⇒ Tent Sites: \$10.00 per night
  - ⇒ Power/Water Sites: \$20.00 per night
- Showers Located on the North end of the Park
- Soccer Field, Beach volleyball court and playground equipment
- Fires are permitted in designated areas; firewood is not provided



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## 40 MILE PARK:

- **Beachside Convenience Store:** Located at the Oliver Hodge Viewing Centre near the beach. Open all summer long providing Firewood, Ice Cream, Bait, Ice and more.
- **Camping:** 40 Mile Park has 31 power sites and 27 non-power sites. All water is non-potable.
- **Showers/Laundry:** Located at the Oliver Hodge Viewing Centre, requires a loonie to operate.
- **Boating:** a boat launch is located in a sheltered bay providing quick access to 7 miles of fishing, tubing and water skiing.
- **Facility:** Paradise Point Pavilion is available to rent for your event. Call the park office for more information.
- **Beach:** a beach has been created to enjoy sun, sand and swimming.
- **Playground:** a new playground is available right by the beach for family fun!
- **Group Camping:** Paradise Point may be booked for group use. There is no power and a minimum charge of 7 non-power sites applies.
- **Frisbee Golf:** Enjoy a free round of Frisbee Golf at the new course with 9 holes. (\$ 10.00 refundable deposit)

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## 40 MILE PARK

The Park is located on the northwest end of a very long and deep irrigation reservoir. The dam is 6.5 miles long and has over 20 miles of shoreline. 40 Mile Park is wonderful place to enjoy water based activities, including fishing and boating, and is always changing to include more family oriented facilities for the future.

## 40 MILE PARK FEES—2014

Visa, MasterCard, and Interac accepted at front gate

94 Seasonal Campsites

### Gate Fees

Day Use (Per Vehicle)	\$5.00
Vehicle Plus Boat	\$20.00
Bus Rate	\$2.00 per person
Seasonal Day Use (includes boat)	\$80.00
Lease Holder Season Pass	\$40.00 (max 2 passes)

### Overnight Camping

Non-powered site (27)	\$25.00
Powered site (31)	\$30.00
Private Lot	\$25.00

### Additional Park Fees

Sewage	Free
Showers/Laundry	Coin Operated (loonies)
Pavilion Rental	\$150.00 per day
Pavilion Deposit	\$500.00
Sound System Rental	\$150.00
Sound System Deposit	\$500.00
BBQ Rental	\$25.00 per day

# Quick Facts About Bow Island & Area

## FISHING IN BOW ISLAND & SURROUNDING AREA

### RESERVOIRS & FISH TYPE:

#### SHERBURNE LAKE (GRASSY LAKE)

26km west of Bow Island, 11km South on 877, 7km West on Township Road 92, and then 2 km North on RR 141

-Walleye, Pike, Perch, Burbot

#### FORTY MILE

Approximately 5km West of Bow Island, approx 20km South on the 879

-Walleye, Pike, Perch, Burbot

#### SAUDER

-Walleye, Pike, Perch, Burbot

#### FOREMOST

Approximately 5km West of Bow Island and 50km South on the 879

-Rainbow Trout

#### YELLOW LAKE

From Burdett, head South on RR 121 for approx 8km.

-Pike, Walleye

#### SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

Approx. 7km West on Highway 3, 4km north on the 879, 5km west on township road 110, and north on RR 121 for 5km

-Walleye, Sauger, Pike, Gold Eye, Burbot, Sturgeon

#### FORKS, OLDMAN RIVER, BOW RIVER CONFLUENCE

From Grassy Lake, west of Bow Island, head 5km north on RR 133, east 1 km on township road 110. 5km north on RR132

-Walleye, Sauger, Pike, Gold eye, Burbot, Sturgeon

For Sizes, Limits, Season:

Refer to the *"2011 Alberta Guide To Sport Fishing Regulations"*

# Quick Facts About The Red Coat Trail

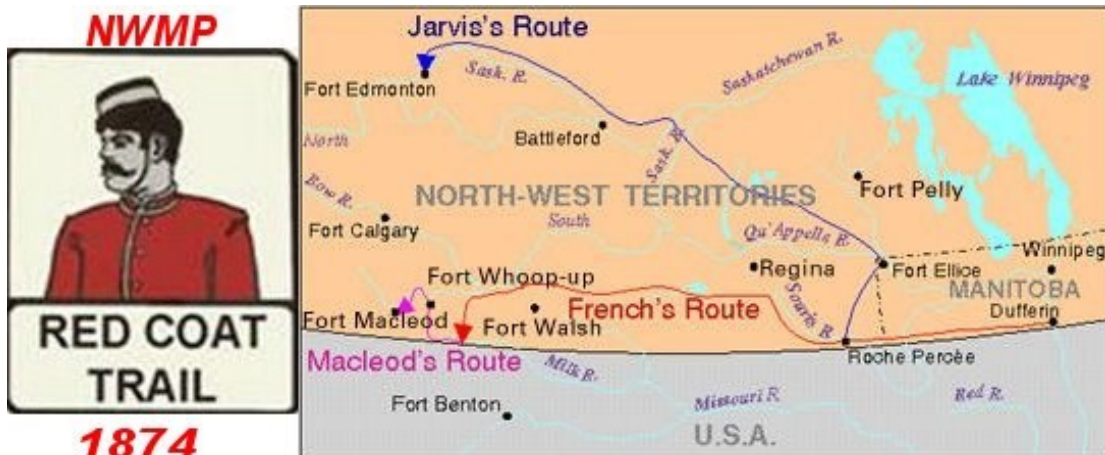
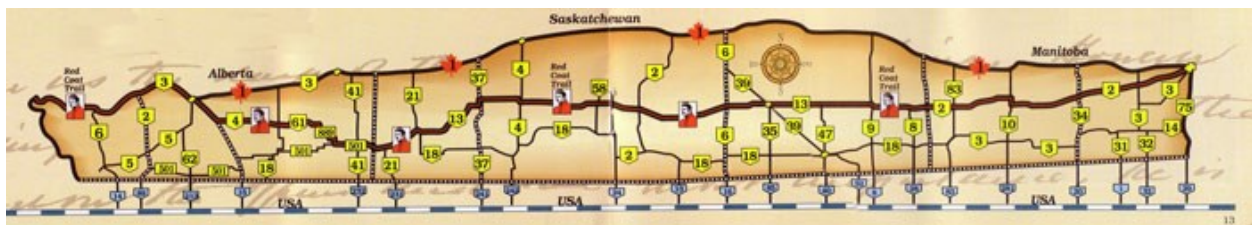


# Quick Facts About The Red Coat Trail

The **Red Coat Trail** is a 1,300 kilometer (810 mi) route that approximates the path taken in 1874 by the North-West Mounted Police in their quest to bring law and order to the Canadian West. From Fort Dufferin (now EMERSON, Manitoba) they followed the Boundary Trail to La Roche Percée, Saskatchewan. There the force split up, with part of it going on to Fort Edmonton and the main force continuing to Fort Whoop-Up. Finding the fort abandoned, they continued westward to an island on the Oldman River where they established Fort Macleod.

## TRAVEL ROUTE

A number of highways in southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta roughly follow the original route. In Alberta, the trail follows Highways 3, 4, 61, 889, and 501. In Saskatchewan, Highway 13 is designated as Red Coat Trail. The travel corridor from the Manitoba—Saskatchewan border to Winnipeg follows Manitoba PTH 2



## National/Provincial Confederation Dates

- Canada (1867)
- Ontario (1867)
- Quebec (1867)
- Nova Scotia (1867)
- New Brunswick (1867)
- Northwest Territories (1870)
- British Columbia (1871)
- Prince Edward Island (1873)
- Yukon (1898)
- Saskatchewan (1905)
- Alberta (1905)
- Nunavut (1999)

## Miles/Kilometers Conversion Table

Kilometers	Miles
10	6.21
20	12.43
30	18.64
40	24.85
50	31.07
60	37.28
70	43.50
80	49.71
90	55.92
100	62.14

## Celsius/Fahrenheit Conversion Table

<b>Celsius</b>	<b>Fahrenheit</b>
<b>-15</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>-10</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>-5</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>86</b>