



DOINNA DANYLIK



RICHARD REEVES

Catch the tall grass prairie fever

as former Preserve Botanist, Laura Reeves, shares her passion for this endangered ecosystem with a walk around the Prairie Shore Trail (1 mile, easy terrain). Then marvel at the structural and creative beauty of Historic St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church while those dedicated to its preservation enlighten you with stories of years gone by.

Feeling hungry?

Local volunteers will be waiting for you at the Gardenton Museum with delicious home-made Ukrainian cuisine and an eagerness to share their memories and stories with you as you tour the Museum grounds and buildings.



TOUR PACKAGE

\$32/person (min. group size of 10) includes:

Guided walk on the **Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve** with former Preserve Botanist, Laura Reeves

Guided tour of **Historic St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

Home-made Ukrainian-style lunch at the **Gardenton Ukrainian Museum**

Guided tour of the **Gardenton Museum and heritage buildings**

CONTACT

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GARDENTON HERITAGE TOUR



BOB TALBOT

Our Cultural History - Naturally



**Guided Nature Walk and Historic Buildings Tour
Ukrainian Lunch**

GARDENTON-MANITOBA



IAN WARD

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO,

6,000 square kilometres of south central Manitoba was covered by a waving sea of grasses and wildflowers up to two metres high. The tall grass prairie was the most productive type of prairie in North America. But its very richness spelled its doom. As word spread about its deep, fertile soils, settlers flocked to the area. Before long, the incredible diversity of plants, animals and insects was replaced with cereal and forage crops.

Today, less than ½ of one percent of this endangered ecosystem remains – most of it in the Rural Municipality of Stuartburn.

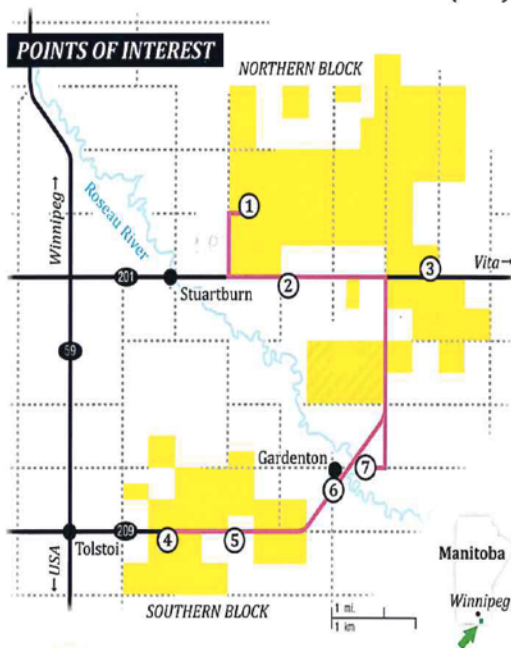
Much of the land in the R.M. of Stuartburn was originally settled by pioneers from Bukovyna in western Ukraine. The first Bukovynians arrived in Canada in 1896 and soon after settled in the Stuartburn-Gardenton area.

The soil in this area of Manitoba was not as fertile as sites farther west in the Red River Valley, but each section contained many wooded areas – a source of fuel and lumber for pioneers. In many cases, stones and wetlands made cultivation of the land impossible – a saving grace for the tall grass prairie.

In 1989, the Critical Wildlife Habitat Program began securing land for what is now the 5800-hectare **Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve**.



Historic St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church (1897)



- Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve lands
- Stuartburn Wildlife Management Area
- ① Weston Family Interpretive Centre
- ② Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church (1911)
- ③ Agassiz Interpretive Trail
- ④ Prairie Shore Interpretive Trail
- ⑤ Historic St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church (1897)
- ⑥ Ukrainian Museum and Village (1965)
- ⑦ Howe Pony Timber Truss Bridge (1918)
- Suggested tour route (start at #4)



ED LEDDIKOWSKI

Howe Pony Timber Truss Bridge (1918)

Despite all the rigours faced by the early settlers, a strong social and religious life developed. In 1897, a year after Ukrainian settlers arrived in Gardenton, they met with Rev. Nestor Dmytriw who assisted them with plans to build a church. That winter, led by carpenter Wasył Kekot, 43 volunteers began the task of building what was to become **St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church**. Consecrated in 1899, St. Michael's Church stands as a symbol of the Ukrainian immigrants' ardent faith and determination to preserve their religion in a new land. Through the dedicated research of John Panchuk, St. Michael's was declared the first Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada. Subsequently, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada dedicated a cairn at St. Michael's in 1956. In 1974 it was recognized as a Provincial Historic Site and in 1988 it was recognized as a site of National Historic and Architectural Status.

In 1965, descendants of the original Ukrainian settlers created the **Gardenton Ukrainian Museum** to preserve the history of what was then a bustling town boasting 27 businesses. The museum is located on 25 hectares of land along the Roseau River. It includes an original thatched roof house, clay oven (*pich*), and original one-room school house. Countless artifacts donated by area residents demonstrate how the pioneers survived with only the bare necessities, many items improvised from local resources. The museum also houses many textiles from different regions of Ukraine.