

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Parks Canada

2011 is a very special year for Parks Canada. On May 19th the Parks Canada Agency will be marking its Centennial. From its early beginnings in 1911 as the Dominion Parks Branch, Parks Canada has remained a world leader in conservation, education and visitor experience programming.

In order to acknowledge this milestone, Parks Canada Centennial celebrations will be taking place across its treasured network of over 200 national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas. The Centennial Launch Event intended to kick start these nation-wide celebrations will be taking place in Toronto on Saturday, May 21st.

How did Parks Canada get its start? In 1885, Banff was established as Canada's first national park, a protected area of natural importance to the nation. Other parks soon followed. There lacked, however, a supporting structure to regulate these newly established sites.

In 1911, 26 years after the establishment of Banff, the Government of Canada moved to create a body that would help support these places with programs and services. On May 19th, 1911, they created the Dominion Parks Service, the first national park service in the world. Today, a century later, Parks Canada carries on this tradition of leadership, providing protection, education and visitor experience programs that are admired around the world. In addition to establishing and preserving a system of national parks, national historic sites have also been added to Parks Canada's responsibilities.

In 1919, James B. Harkin, Commissioner of the Dominion's national park system, persuaded the federal government to establish the "Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada." The board consisted of six members and a board-appointed chairman, who quickly set about determining the most significant historic sites in the country.

To mark a century of world leadership and service to Canadians, the Saskatchewan division of Parks Canada will be over-seeing various programs, services, and activities across the province this season. Two exciting new programs that will be piloted in all the parks and sites in Saskatchewan this summer are the "My Saskatchewan Treasures Contest" and The Xplorers Program.

The "**My Saskatchewan Treasures Contest**" is an opportunity for visitors to submit photos that capture their favourite experiences at Canada's national historic sites and national parks in Saskatchewan. The contest opens in May and closes September 30. The more sites that visitors go to, the higher level prizes they are qualified for. Prizes include:

1st prize: A Cypress Hills Destination Area Escape (3 nights/4 people) value \$1,250.00

2nd prize: Prince Albert National Park Getaway (2 nights/2 people) value \$650.00

3rd prize: Battlefords Adrenaline Adventure (1 night/4 people) value \$350.00

4th prize: My Saskatchewan Treasures Prize Package (3 winners) value \$100.00

Check out [www.SaskatchewanTreasuresContest.com](http://www.SaskatchewanTreasuresContest.com) or <http://www.concourstresorssaskatchewan.com/> for more information.

Another exciting program being piloted this summer is the **Xplorers program**. This program will engage children visiting with their family in fun, age-appropriate activities that help them experience our parks and sites. The Xplorers program targets children aged 6-11, however the activities will be fun for the whole family. Children will be given a booklet with a variety of activities to choose from, and then select a few to complete and are rewarded at the end with a site-specific medallion and a certificate. The program will launch on July 1st.

In addition, as part of these Centennial Year celebrations each national park and national historic site will be hosting special celebratory events, along with their regular programming. Saskatchewan's National Parks and National Historic Sites are offering Unique Programs and Services for the Centennial Year

## **Batoche National Historic Site**



Batoche National Historic Site – Copyright Parks Canada

Come to Batoche National Historic Site and discover how events here shaped the nation. As the wind rustles through the grass you can "hear" shots being fired and orders being shouted as you step back in time and walk on the last battlefield of the Northwest Rebellion/Resistance of 1885. Seek refuge in the Church or Rectory and take a moment to be embraced by the Métis lifestyle. This site offers something for everyone . . . . You will find that the land has its own voice. Talented staff and volunteers, regular programs and special events will help you unravel the chapters of a story you won't soon forget. Canada's History Magazine (Feb-March 2011) listed Batoche as one of the top ten must see national historic sites for Canadian history in the country. Come see for yourself what all the buzz is about!



Batoche National Historic Site – Copyright Parks Canada

Though renovations are still being completed on the Visitor Reception Centre, it will be open to the public when the site opens May 15th, 2011. Full services should be available by the end of June. We welcome you to come out throughout the summer to see the improved facilities as well as Métis Art Exhibit which will be opening at the end of June. Some special event days to keep in mind:

May 9: A Gathering at Tourond's Coulee  
June 25: An Outdoor Evening at Batoche  
June 21: Métis Art Exhibit & Aboriginal Day  
July 1: Canada Day celebration  
July 16: Parks Day

To learn more about these events and many others running throughout the summer, visit [www.parksCanada.gc.ca](http://www.parksCanada.gc.ca) or call 1-888-773-8888.

## *Fort Battleford National Historic Site*



Fort Battleford Historic Site – Copyright Parks Canada

Fort Battleford National Historic Site showcases the role of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) in the Canadian West, and in 2011, will be offering an exciting new menu of programs and services for visitors of all ages. Visitors can experience life at the NWMP post as they never have before – as a prisoner who will be arrested, dressed in period clothing, and put to work doing chores as the prisoners would have had to do! Visitors can even participate in a skit for other visitors and staff if they'd like. Visitors will also have the opportunity to experience what it would have been like to join the NWMP, including helping with an actual canon firing, participating in basic drill training and signing recruitment documents. Along with these programs, Fort Battleford will also be implementing new self-guided interpretive panels, launching a new audio tour and promoting the site as a wedding venue. There will certainly be no shortage of new experiences at Fort Battleford National Historic Site in 2011!



Fort Battleford Historic Site – Copyright Parks Canada

Join us anytime May long weekend through to Labour Day, or visit us on one of our special event days.

You won't be disappointed!

May 21: Opening Day

May 26: Ghost Walk

July 16: Spring 1885 Program

Aug 20-21: Famous Forts weekend

To learn more about these events, and many others running throughout the summer, visit [www.parksCanada.gc.ca](http://www.parksCanada.gc.ca) or call 1-888-773-8888.

## Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada



Fort Walsh National Historic Site – Copyright Parks Canada

Red serge & black horses! Nothing is more recognizable as a symbol of Canada than a red coated member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police astride a black horse. During your visit learn how this evocative symbol of Canada evolved, and how much of the modern image and tradition of the RCMP can be traced back to the Force's formative years at their old Fort Walsh headquarters here in the Cypress Hills of south-western Saskatchewan. Today at Fort Walsh, history comes to life with the smell of the wood fire, the taste of bannock and coffee, the neighing of horses, the boom of the fort's cannon and the fort's buildings all furnished to the 1880s period. Guides in period costume aid in facilitating a variety of visitor experiences, including the popular "Trial Program" that sees children dressed as NWMP making arrests and assisting in processing prisoners in the administration of 19th century justice. Outside the fort's palisade are 1,600 acres of the beautiful Battle Creek Valley for visitors to explore. Simply pick up a picnic lunch at the Visitor Reception Centre, and set out for adventure!



Fort Walsh National Historic Site – Copyright Parks Canada

Although every visit to Fort Walsh NHSC is a memorable special event, we welcome you to also consider joining us on the following days:

July 1: Dominion Day (cake & flag raising)

July 16: Parks Day (cake & cannon demonstration)

July 18: Art in The Park (pre-register for a day long art workshop)

July 23: Historic Trades & NWMP Drill Demonstration Day (our flagship annual event!)

Aug. 20 & 21: Famous Forts Weekend

Fort Walsh NHSC opens on the Victoria Day long weekend and operates seven days a week until Labour Day. Pre-booked group tours only are available in September.

For more information about Fort Walsh NHSC, as well as help in planning your trip to the Cypress Hills Destination Area, please visit [www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca) and [www.cypresshills.com](http://www.cypresshills.com)



Fort Walsh National Historic Site – Copyright Parks Canada – Cannon Bastion

## **Grasslands National Park**

It doesn't matter if you are interested in wildlife or wild flowers, or whether you are looking for dinosaur bones or tepee rings. Perhaps you would rather discover the secrets of the prairie sky or learn the secrets of those who called this landscape home. At Grasslands National Park, you can be anything - an astronomer, a scientist, a palaeontologist, an anthropologist or an explorer; the park offers something for everyone. Whatever your interest, Grasslands National Park is yours to explore and discover.



Grasslands National Park – Copyright Parks Canada

Come join us in the park as we celebrate being stewards of the land. Try to glimpse a bison, ferret or prairie dog. Maybe you'll spot swift fox pups playing in a coulee. Perhaps you'll decide to hike or trail ride along an ancient glacial valley. Discover all this and much more this year by partaking in our Centennial celebrations!



Grasslands National Park – Copyright Parks Canada  
Photo Credit Harvey Dueck 2010

Here are just a few of the opportunities for special events in 2011:

May 28: Star Party (East Block)

June 18: East Block Party

July 1: West Block Canada Day Party

July 9: Fossil Festival (East Block)

July 30: Star Party (West Block)

Aug 13: Prairie Night (West Block)

Sept 4: Wood Mountain Wind-Up (East Block)

To learn more about these events, and the many others that will be occurring as they develop this summer visit [www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca) or call 1-877-345-2257 or email: [grasslands.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:grasslands.info@pc.gc.ca)

## **Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site**

The quiet sounds of the prairie - rustling grasses and a burst of bird song, provide the backdrop for the sounds of work on an early 20<sup>th</sup> century farm - stomping hooves, clinking harnesses and powerful snorts as the team draws the plough, releasing the scents of freshly turned soil. Under watchful eyes, sown seeds sprout and grow, nourished by the powerful forces of sun and rain. As the autumn sun shines, join our friends and neighbours working the fields. All hands are working hard to store the grain and gardens' bounties for the long winter ahead – binding, stooking, threshing, storing, pickling. Hop on a wagon and tour the grounds, explore the nooks and crannies in the huge barn and magnificent stone house, get your hands dirty with the farm equipment, animals and gardens. Live history from the ground up!



Motherwell Homestead – Copyright Parks Canada  
Greg Huszar Photography 2010

In addition to special events, new programming this summer includes daily skits. Enter into the great debate - “Horse versus tractor” – and decide for yourself which is the superior method of farming. Consider the struggles of young homesteaders as they contemplate “Going East”. All this and more awaits you at Motherwell Homestead, so step out of the hustle and come back to the farm!

May 21: Opening Day Victoria Tea

July 1: Xplorers Club Launch

July 16: Equine Extravaganza

Aug 21: Binding, Stooking, Chore Team and Driving Competition

To learn more about these events, and many others running throughout the summer, visit

[www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca) or call 1-888-773-8888.



Motherwell Homestead – Copyright Parks Canada  
Greg Huszar Photography 2010

### **Prince Albert National Park**

Prince Albert National Park, within an hour's drive of the city of Prince Albert, spans the border between picturesque aspen parkland and the hardy northern boreal forest. This diverse habitat is home to a wide range of wildlife. You're just as likely to spot a Plains bison rolling in a mud wallow on the west side as you are to see black bear fishing at Mud Creek. Look for white pelican as they fly to and from the only fully-protected nesting colony in Canada or howl with the wolves at dusk as the stars begin to twinkle overhead.



Pelicans – Copyright Klaus Nigge

We are pleased to announce the return of "Song of Waskesiu." Infused with additional research, the play now includes several new scenes, music and archival film footage that very few people have seen in almost 80 years! "The Songs of Waskesiu II" is a one-person, historical drama based on the life and times of the Park's first Superintendent, James A. Wood. There will be several public performances scheduled in and around Waskesiu between June and October. Check at the Visitor Centre or on our web site for dates and times.

Along with the rest of Parks Canada, Prince Albert National Park is celebrating 100 years of protecting heritage and conserving wilderness. Whether you spend a beach day in the village of Waskesiu with its shops, museum and Nature Centre or you plan to paddle, hike, bike or otherwise adventure out into the woods; Prince Albert National Park has something for everyone.

### **Prince Albert National Park 100**

May 20-23: Nature Centre Opens on long weekend with 100<sup>th</sup> theme

June 18 & 21: National Aboriginal Day Celebrations

July 1: Canada Day Parade and Xplorers Club Launch

July 16: Waskesiu Children's Festival & Parks Day- Be one of the 100!

July 20: *Born Buffalo* theatre play and workshop

Oct. 10: Thanksgiving: Parks Canada thanks Canada

To learn more about these events, and the many others that will be occurring as they develop this summer visit [www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca) or call 1-877-345-2257 or email: [panp.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:panp.info@pc.gc.ca)