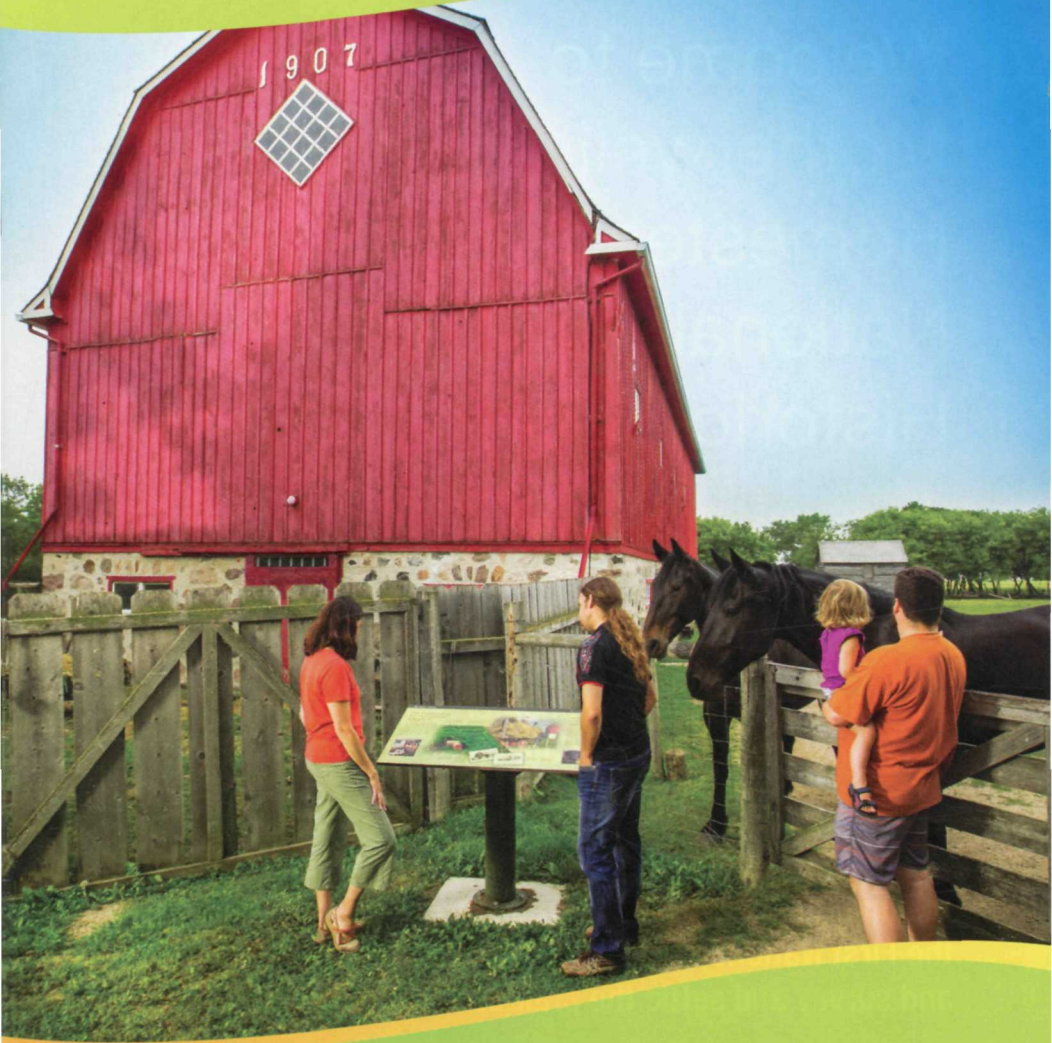




Motherwell Homestead
National Historic Site



Discovery Booklet



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Welcome to Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site!



This homestead was the pride and joy of William R. Motherwell (1860–1943). It lives on as a place for visitors to experience and learn about an important chapter in the history of Western Canada.

By the 1870s the dream of a nation stretching from “sea to sea” had taken hold in Canada, fuelling the push to make treaties with the First Nations, build a national railway, and survey and settle the prairies.

In 1882, at the age of 22, W.R. Motherwell was one of many young adventurers rushing west from Ontario on the promise of “free” homestead lands.



The life of a homesteader was a challenging one! With little more than an ox or work horse, a plough, cart, and one's own hands, homesteaders carved out a living on the open plains. Dust storms, blizzards and grasshoppers all took their toll. Many homesteaders gave up; however, Motherwell and his family persevered.

Motherwell became a leader among local farmers, co-founding the Territorial Grain Growers Association in 1901. He became Saskatchewan's first Minister of Agriculture from 1905 to 1918, developing and promoting scientific agriculture and education in the province.


At the age of 62, Motherwell began an 18-year career in federal politics, serving as Canada's Minister of Agriculture through much of the 1920s and helping to guide Canada through the terrible years of the Great Depression that followed. He was almost 80 when he retired back here to Lanark Place.



This booklet will help guide you around Motherwell Homestead. The following pages include a map with stops and optional activities.

Motherwell Homestead

Legend

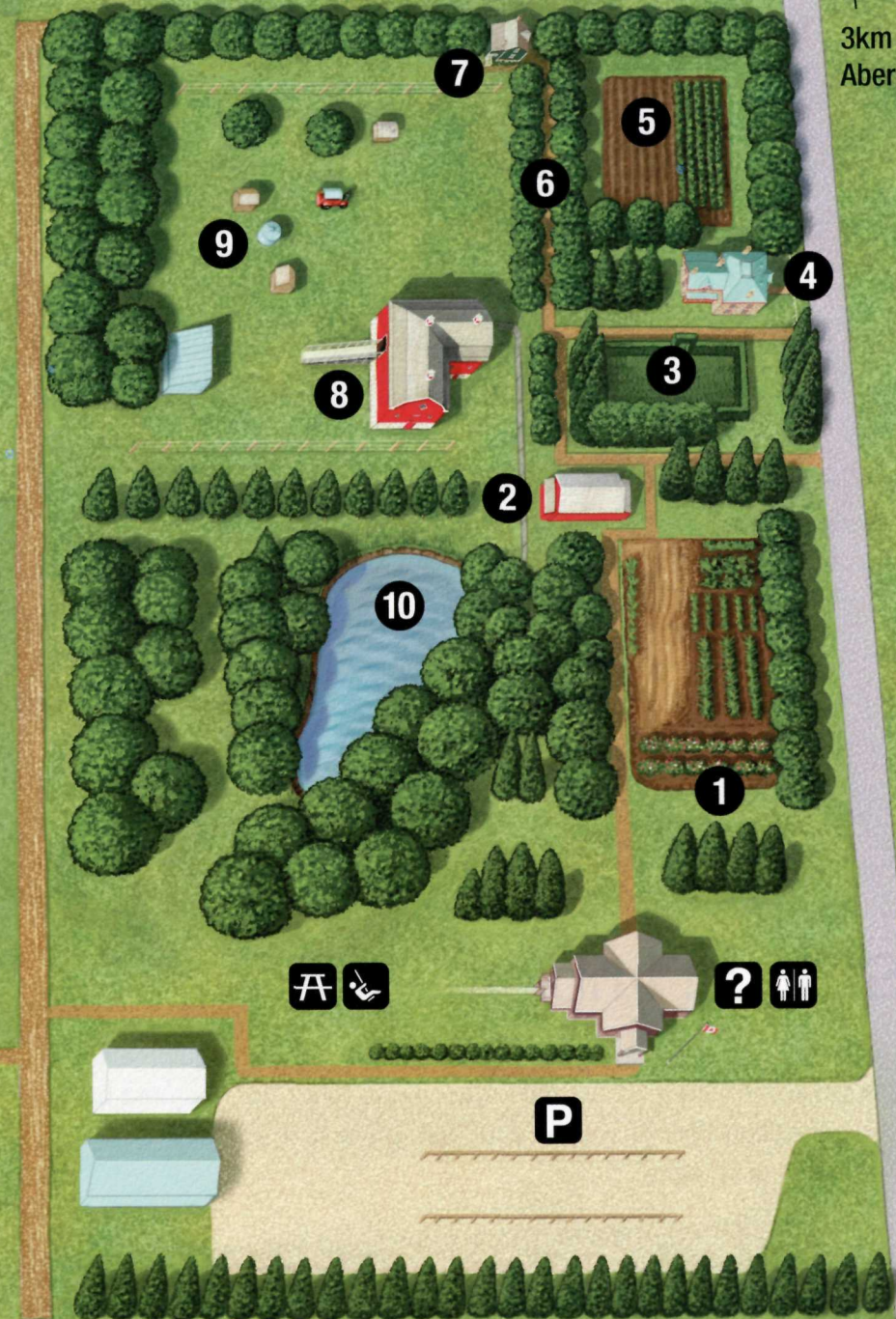
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Garden | 9 Barnyard |
| 2 Implement shed | 10 Dugout |
| 3 Tennis court | 11 Stueck Nature Walk |
| 4 Stone house |  Picnic area |
| 5 Potato garden |  Children's play area |
| 6 Lover's Lane |  Visitor Centre |
| 7 Hired men's cottage |  Washrooms |
| 8 Barn |  Parking |



When World War One broke out on August 4, 1914 European agricultural lands were turned into battlefields, and food shortages quickly became a reality. While forces (including Canadians) fought in Europe, farmers on the homefront contributed to the "Greater Production Campaign", producing more wheat to keep the Allied forces fed. Through Motherwell Homestead's "Cultivating Victory" programming, learn about the contributions and challenges faced by farmers on the homefront.



11



3km to
Abernethy



DID YOU KNOW?

Victory Gardening was a popular wartime effort for citizens to produce more and consume less. Planting vegetables instead of flowers, canning and making preserves were seen as patriotic duties.

Stop 1: The Garden

The garden is located on the lowest part of the property, where it could collect surplus water. It was important to plant only half the garden each year to allow the soil to rejuvenate in alternating years.



Check out the signs in the garden that identify what is growing. Did any of these kinds of veggies end up on your plate this week?

Stop 2: Implement Shed

The implement shed stores many of the farm's vehicles, equipment and tools. For example, the 1897 Cockshutt Seed Drill, restored by Cochrane High School, was an important piece of machinery used during spring seeding.

Stop 3: Tennis Court

The tennis court was often referred to as Motherwell's 'outdoor living room'. The Motherwells would entertain on the lawn and play croquet or badminton. Mr. Motherwell would often brag about the caragana hedge surrounding the tennis court. He felt he could turn a bull loose in there and it wouldn't be able to get out.

DID YOU KNOW?

During the First World War the main items "rationed" were food and gasoline. To help conserve these things the government introduced "Meatless Fridays" and "Fuelless Sundays".



ACTION



Take a few minutes to play badminton or croquet on the lawn — games popular during the Victorian era and still played today!



Stop 4: Stone House

This house represents a typical style of farm house popular in Ontario. Built from stones Motherwell collected from his fields, it was constructed in 1897 and is currently furnished to the 1910–14 period.



Maintaining a good looking property used to be a lot harder before riding mowers! Try using the push mower located on the veranda of the winter kitchen to help keep the lawn manicured.

Once inside the house, take a close look around and check out the activities available. How is this home similar to yours? How is it different?



Stop 5: Potato Garden

This area just north of the house serves a variety of purposes. Potatoes and mangles are planted here, and during the 1930s Motherwell turned it into an orchard.

Most food was grown for consumption and very little was bought. The hired girls were responsible for canning the food that would last the family all winter.



Locate the clothesline behind the house and beside the potato garden; here is your chance to get dressed up and take some pictures around the yard!

Please hang the clothes back on the line and place the props in the basket when you are finished.



DID YOU KNOW?

“Patriotism and Production” was Canada’s national slogan adopted in 1915.



Stop 6: Lover's Lane

This lane, lined by Manitoba maple and chokecherry trees, is representative of the different styles of shelterbelt planting used throughout the prairies. In this case, the trees help separate the work areas of the farm from the homestead. Other shelterbelts protect the land from the harsh prairie winds and soil erosion.

DID YOU KNOW?



Farmers were initially granted exemptions from conscription in 1917, as their work on the farm was considered vital to the war effort. However all exemptions were cancelled by early 1918. Many farmers were left with no labour to put in or take off the crop. W.R. Motherwell was the Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan but resigned from his post and later his seat partly in protest over that issue.

Stop 7: Hired Men's Cottage

The hired girls slept in the Motherwell home, while the hired men resided in their own little cottage at the end of Lover's Lane. Built in 1908, the cottage also provided sleeping quarters for the extra threshermen required at harvest time.



ACTION

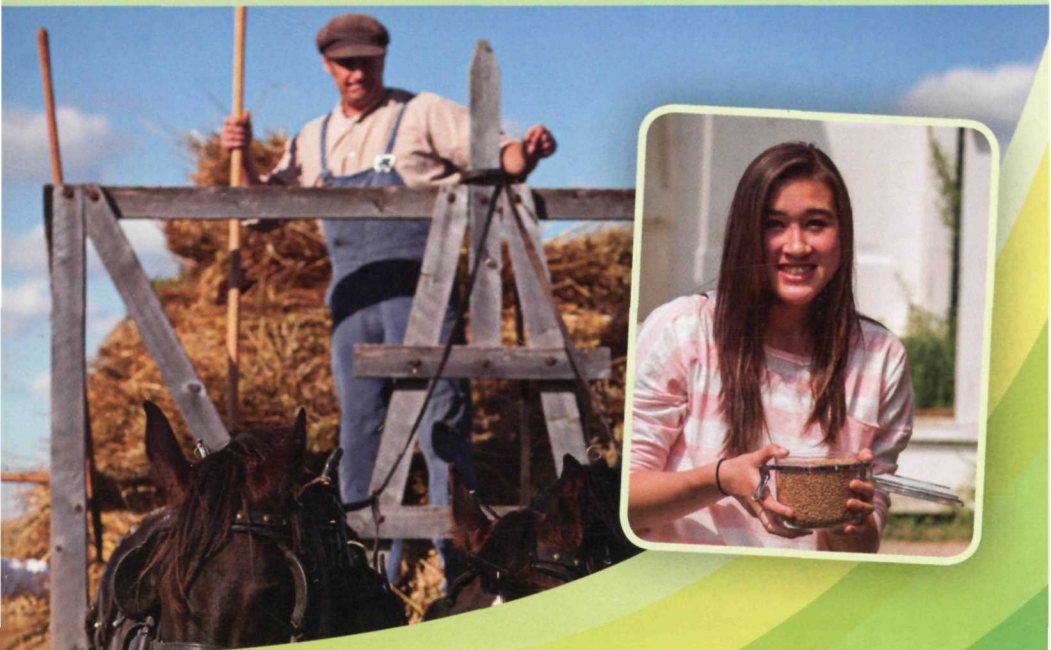
Walk behind the cottage and find a picnic table with jars of different types of grain. Look into the field to determine what is growing.

Can you identify the other grains? All of these are cultivated regularly on Saskatchewan farms (the answers are located on the bottom of the jars).

DID YOU KNOW?



In an effort to deal with the labour shortages during the war, Soldiers of the Soil (SOS) was formed in 1917 where young boys between the ages of 15–19 went to help out on farms across the country.



Stop 8: Barn

The distinctive L-shaped barn reflects Motherwell's idea of housing his entire stock under one roof. It also shows an interesting architectural evolution from the initial stone stable of 1896 to the full fledged barn, erected in a raising bee in 1907. Do not forget to look upstairs; this dry location is where feed and bedding are stored for the animals (grain and straw).

DID YOU KNOW?

Over one million allied horses were killed on the Western front during WW1, that's roughly the same number of horses that were in the province of Saskatchewan by 1921!



Stop 9: Barn Yard

Motherwell designed the barn yard as an enclosed area where activities such as threshing, preparation of grain and fodder, and work on equipment could be done in relative comfort and privacy from the rest of the yard.

Stop 10: Dugout

The dugout, visible from the barnyard, was Motherwell's answer to convenient water access. He excavated a large depression and piled the soil on either side. When winter winds blew from the north and west sides, the dugout filled with snow. Trees and bushes were planted in this section of the homestead to help trap as much snow as possible. In the spring, the melt water became the farm's water supply.



ACTION



Think of a dugout as a giant rain-barrel that catches and conserves the water for future use. If you do not have a rain barrel in your garden, consider installing one — it will save you money and is good for the environment!

Stop 11: *bird* Stueck Nature Walking Trail

Head to the visitor centre and follow the signs to the Stueck Trail, a 30 minute walk to the natural pond and back.

DID YOU KNOW?



The price of wheat in 1913 was \$0.80 per bushel and by 1918 it was \$2.21. As the price rose, farmers invested heavily in equipment and land, but by the early 1920s were burdened with heavy mortgages as prices and productivity decreased.



Keep your eyes peeled for different types of ducks and birds when you get to the pond. Use the net on the dock to see what lives in the pond.



When you are finished, we invite you to return to the visitor center to indulge your senses with a tasty treat found in the Friends of the Motherwell Homestead cafe and pick up a cool souvenir at their gift shop!

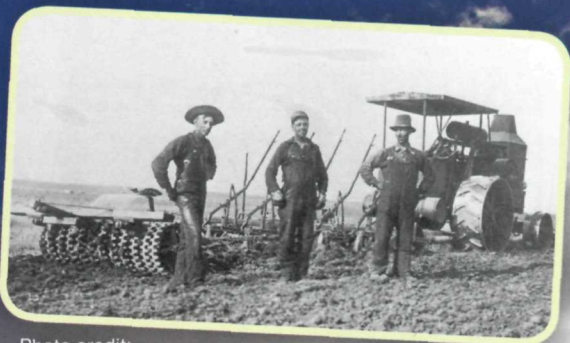


Photo credit:
Parks Canada, Prairie Region, Bert Garratt Collection.

Mr. Motherwell spent his life promoting the notion that farming is an honourable occupation, he dedicated his life to advocating for it and educating those within the agricultural industry. His legacy lives on here at the Motherwell Homestead.

Farming has evolved and changed so much over the years, and many people never consider what goes into getting their food from the field to their fork. Motherwell was a pioneer who practiced many techniques that have become standard practice today.

Thank you for visiting Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site. We hope you enjoyed your tour!

DID YOU KNOW?



While farmers rushed to put more acres into production during the war, W.R. Motherwell, cautioned not summer fallowing would decrease the long-term productivity of the land.

Follow this symbol to more great Parks Canada Locations in Saskatchewan!

SASKATCHEWAN

Prince Albert National Park
306.663.4522



Batoche National Historic Site
306.423.6227



Fort Battleford National Historic Site
306.937.2621



North Battleford and Battleford

Prince Albert

Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site
306.333.2116



Saskatoon

Yorkton

Moose Jaw

Regina

Swift Current

Fort Walsh National Historic Site
306.662.3590



Grasslands National Park
306.298.2257 West Block
306.476.2018 East Block