



Lumsden: A Walking Tour of Historical Buildings



First Inhabitants

People have lived for more than 12,000 years on Canada's grasslands. Archaeologists are still trying to determine who these early people were, as they left no written records about themselves or their times. Instead, their history must be found through examination of historic sites and artifacts, and interpreting oral histories. To date in the Lumsden area, artifacts have been carbon dated back some 8,400 to 9,500 years.

Since the coming of Europeans to the prairies in the middle 1600s it's known that five First Nations groups - Gros Ventre, Cree, Assiniboine, Blackfoot, and Saulteaux - ancestors of those early people, lived and hunted in the Lumsden area.

The stone medicine wheel and tee pee ring in the picture are located along the Arm River near Regina Beach.

Lumsden Settlement Story

Credit for Lumsden's name and beautiful valley location belongs to both a railway company and circumstances.

The company was the CPR; the circumstances were an incomplete branch line and inflated land prices. The CPR became involved when it was awarded a lease in 1885 to complete a branch line from Regina to Prince Albert, a much needed route to help open up more of the prairie west to agricultural settlement and provide supplies to more northerly communities. The Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway Company had the rights for the line but after laying track only as far as Craven, then known as Sussex, the fledgling company decided the job was too big for it to complete and awarded a six-year lease to the CPR to finish and operate the line.

For its construction headquarters and a possible future town site, the CPR initially wanted a location one and a half miles east of present day Lumsden, where the Boggy Creek enters the Qu'Appelle River, and a spot where the completed portion of the rail line lay. However, when negotiations with the landowner brought land prices too high for the company's liking, it looked elsewhere, settling on Lumsden's current location. As a way of honouring its head engineer/surveyor on the project, Hugh Lumsden, the CPR named the town site Lumsden.

It wasn't long after the railway came that Lumsden experienced a building boom, roughly between 1897 and 1910. It was during this time that most of the homes and buildings featured in the guide were built.

Lumsden became a village in 1889 and a town in 1905.



Floods and Flood-fighting



1940s Great Flood

The first valley flood to affect the community occurred in 1892. Lumsden was a new settlement with few buildings, so damage was limited. The first dikes were built during the 1920s and helped decrease flooding in town but did not eliminate it completely.



1969s Valley Flood

During the 1930s, there were no floods, thanks to that decade's years of drought. From the 1940s to the spring of 1974, the old diking system kept the valley's flood waters out of town, but not without the heroic efforts of town's people and hundreds of volunteers.



2011s Threatening Peak Flow

Following the massive 1974 flood-fighting effort, a new channel, larger and straighter than the old river course, was built east from the west side of town to highway 11. The system was extended to the town's western outskirts in 2001. Over the years the channel has done its job well.

Lumsden Today

Today, Lumsden is a rapidly growing community with a population of more than 1600 people. Like so many small towns in the province, it's a safe, friendly and welcoming community in which to raise a family, do business or retire.

One of the town's greatest assets, of course, is its beautiful location in the Qu'Appelle Valley, bordered by the Wascana and Boggy Creek Valleys.

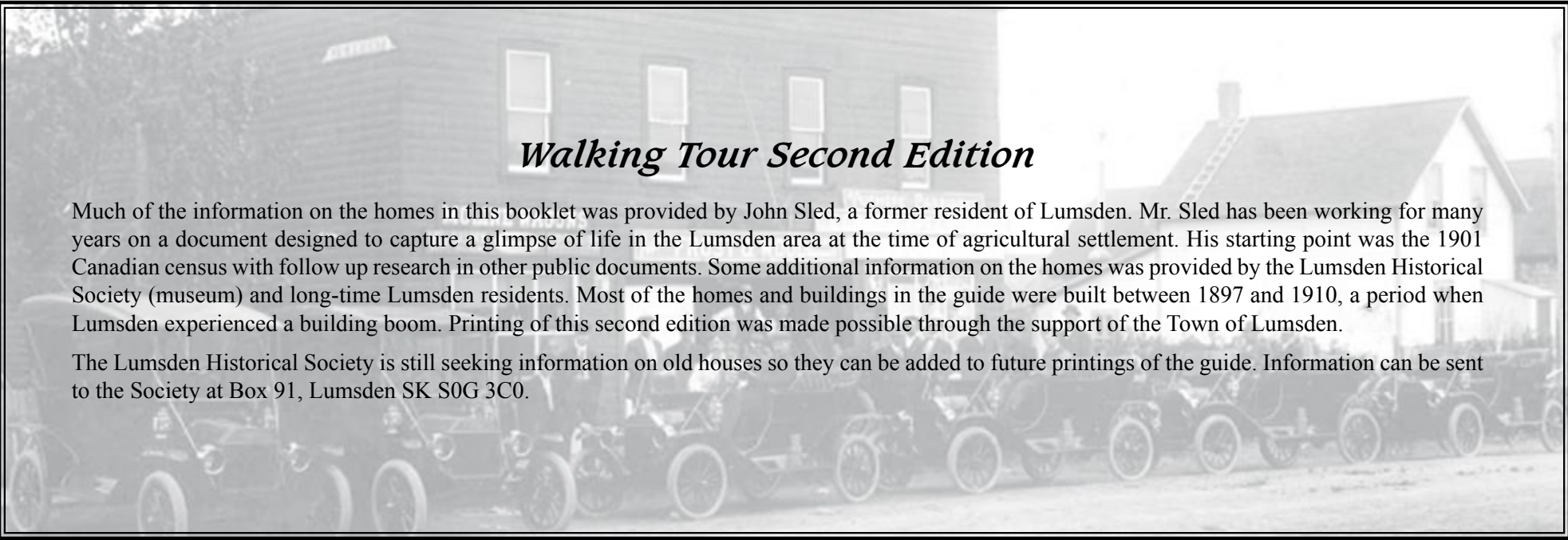
Lumsden's community spirit is the cornerstone for its many successful sports, recreation, cultural and community endeavours, with events and activities going on the year round. The Duck Derby, for example, is one of our major events, staged annually during the Labour Day weekend.

Our town's attractions include:

- hockey and curling rinks
- elementary and high schools
- shops, stores, restaurants
- baseball diamonds
- library
- museum
- parks
- campground
- seasonal community events
- manor and extendacare homes
- various denominational churches
- many other services

During your walking tour (or after), take some time to visit some of our town businesses, or drop into the local museum and learn more about the Lumsden area's history. You may also want to look over some of the new housing developments around town. We have a lot to offer!





Walking Tour Second Edition

Much of the information on the homes in this booklet was provided by John Sled, a former resident of Lumsden. Mr. Sled has been working for many years on a document designed to capture a glimpse of life in the Lumsden area at the time of agricultural settlement. His starting point was the 1901 Canadian census with follow up research in other public documents. Some additional information on the homes was provided by the Lumsden Historical Society (museum) and long-time Lumsden residents. Most of the homes and buildings in the guide were built between 1897 and 1910, a period when Lumsden experienced a building boom. Printing of this second edition was made possible through the support of the Town of Lumsden.

The Lumsden Historical Society is still seeking information on old houses so they can be added to future printings of the guide. Information can be sent to the Society at Box 91, Lumsden SK S0G 3C0.



1N (1905) - 90 2nd Ave. E.

This is one of Lumsden's most historic homes - Maggie Inglis's "home hospital". Maggie was a midwife and delivered more than 300 babies in the home between 1922 - 1945. It was said that if a person was born in the Lumsden area during those years, it was probably in Maggie's home.



2N (1903) - 215 James St. N.

The Balfour brothers - Alexander, William, John, and David built this building for their general store business. The basement walls are made of fieldstone and concrete. The bricks are from Grenfell, SK. Later, Alexander operated the store on his own. In 1946 his son, Sheff, formed a partnership with Les McLaren and they ran the store as Balfour-McLaren until the mid 1970's when it was closed.



3N (1900) - 225 James St. N.

Funding for this structure, to be used as a town hall, was rather unusual as town residents were asked for financial support to have it built. It was later sold by the subscribers/shareholders to the rural municipality of Lumsden (probably around 1912 when the RM was formed) who used it until the construction of a new town and rural municipal office across the street in 1972.



4N (1897) - 245 James St. N.

Lumsden's Methodist congregation erected this small building in 1897 to serve as its church. In 1908 they had a new church erected on the corner of Dundas and Main, now James Street and Qu'Appelle Dr., respectively. J.W. Smith turned the older building into a butcher shop sometime before 1915. Earl Slessor took over the shop in 1919.



5N (1904) - 255 James St. N.

Charles Hynds had this building put up to house his newspaper business, The Lumsden News Record, which he published and edited for about 33 years. After his death the building was turned into a private home. The Lumsden Museum has a nearly complete set of all the papers published by Mr. Hynds.



6N (1897) - 265 James St. N.

This is one of Lumsden's oldest homes still being occupied. It was built for Tom and Elizabeth McNeice (Kelly). Tom was a founding trustee of the Lumsden School District and a part owner of one of Lumsden's first stores. The barbershop was added in 1942 by Earl Butson. Morley Mack, the home's current owner, closed the barbershop in 2012 after operating it for 45 years.



7N (CA 1903-1908) - 505 James St. N.

The next six homes in our guide are located on the east side of James Street North and were built by members of the Miller family between 1903 and 1908. This was the home of the senior Millers, Matthew and Rebecca, parents of Jack, Bob, Hugh, Elizabeth, Sarah and Maude. The family moved from Ontario in 1889, settling in the Lumsden area in 1890.



8N (CA 1903-1908) - 515 James St. N.

This Miller home was occupied by William and Sarah Canning (Miller). They later moved to Ross Street. William had been a general store clerk in Ontario before relocating to Lumsden. Sarah and William had two children, Gladys and Delmar. Delmar was Mayor of Lumsden from 1961 - 1966.



9N (CA 1903-1908) - 525 James St. N.

Hugh and Frances Miller (Walton) occupied this home. Hugh was involved in local politics, serving as Reeve of the R.M. of Lumsden (1916 - 1926) before being elected as the district's MLA (1925 - 1929). Hugh & Francis had four children, Walton, Howard, Frances and Norman.



10N (CA 1903-1908) - 535 James St. N.

This home was originally owned by William and Maud Leaker (Miller) from 1906 - 1911. Mr. Leaker was listed in Henderson's Directory for 1905 as a barber and tobacconist. Generations of Lumsdenites would remember the Pavilion dance hall the Leakers operated for many years on the bank of the old river. Maud and William had two children, Mae and Mervin.



11N (1907/1908) - 605 James St. N.

Bob and Blanch Miller built this unique home with its corner turret. Other residents have included the Dr. Anderson and Beattie Ramsay families. Dr. Anderson was Lumsden's first doctor; Beattie Ramsay was Saskatchewan's first Olympic Gold Medalist in hockey, winning the honour with the Toronto Granites in the 1924 Winter Olympics in France.



12N (1904) - 735 James St. N.

This home was built for Jack and Anne Miller (McEwen). The one-story wings on the north and south sides of the house were added at a later date. Their children became Canadian sports stars with Florence excelling in track and field and Earl in hockey, playing in the NHL for Toronto and Chicago and winning a Stanley Cup while playing for the Maple Leafs.



13N (1905) - 740 James St. N.

Most of the houses along the west side of James Street North, including the house above, were built at the beginning of the 1900s. At the time, the street had no trees as the picture on the back of the guide shows. A tree planting program later helped beautify both the street and the town.



14N (1903) - 700 James St. N.

William and Florence Kerr (Nurse) built this home in 1903. One year later they had to leave it to escape the Great Flood of 1904, camping in the nearby hills with their new son and other residents. One of their children, Illingworth, became an internationally known Canadian landscape artist, author and illustrator, and was officially recognized as “Canada’s first prairie born artist of note”.



15N (1906) - 610 James St. N.

Edward and Maggie Troughton (Clark) built this home. The outer walls are made of rusticated concrete, which was hand mixed and poured in sixteen inch blocks. The Troughtons operated a tinsmith, undertaking business and furniture store in Lumsden. Later occupants of the home were the Nathan Bugg and Clarence Mack families.



16N (1904) - 600 James St. N.

This small home was built in 1904 by Charles Mann who obtained title to the property in 1902. The property title listed Mr. Mann's occupation as butcher.



17N (1910) - 25 6th Ave.

The Watkins family added this home to Lumsden's growing community during the town's early boom years. The garage on the right side of the house, however, was recently added by the current owner. Mr Watkins was Lumsden's first lawyer. A later long-time owner of the home was Frank Gibbs of Gibbs Bros. Construction.



18N (1907) - 430 Lake St.

This was home for Alexander (Doc) and Annie Balfour. As well as their long association with Balfour's General Store, they owned the old Lumsden Hotel, which they operated with their son, Sheff. Alex was the youngest of eight children of Agnes Balfour. The family moved to the Lumsden area from Ontario over the years 1883 - 1884.



19N (1972) - 360 James St. N.

The Town and Municipal office building was erected in 1972. The original building was a hall that served the Presbyterian congregation until 1907 when they finished their new church (now St. Andrews United) on the south side of the tracks. The bell was purchased by the town in the 1920s and was used to tell the time of day and warn of fires.



20N (1903) - 240 James St. N.

Ed Troughton put up this building in 1903 to house his hardware, tinsmith, undertaking and furniture businesses. For many years the building was used for the Red and White Store. It is now a hardware store.



21N (1931) - 220 James St. N.

This beautiful building, erected during the “dirty 30s”, served as Lumsden’s post office until the end of November 2001 at which time a new building was opened to provide more space for mail boxes and mail sorting.



22N (1900) - 20 2nd Ave.

Dr. Anderson completed the west half of the building in 1900, using it as his drug store. The east half was constructed in 1908. Lumsden's first phone company moved into the upstairs of the west half in 1903. Over the years, the building(s) have housed a grocery store, video rental shop, bakery, coffee shop and apartments.



23N (1907) - 110 2nd Ave.

Originally the home of Dr. Cairns, the house was built by William Kinnon for approximately \$4,000. It is one of the few early houses in Lumsden, the interior of which, is finished entirely of solid oak. A later, long-time, owner was W.C. (Billy) Gibbs of Gibbs Brothers Construction.



24N (1899) - 125 2nd Ave. W.

It's believed that Charles and Helen Keith (Burrows) were the first owners of this home, possibly as early as 1899. Helen was the daughter of Peter Burrows, who arrived in Lumsden in 1892. A portion of the Keith's farmland is now part of the town of Lumsden.



25N (1905) - 115 2nd Ave. W.

Built for Jim Kinnon, an early settler in the Cottonwood District south of Lumsden. Jim was known for his Clydesdale horses, winning many prizes at fairs and exhibitions, including the 1899 Regina Fair. This property is surrounded by the large cottonwood poplar trees for which the town is known.



26N (1898) - 85 2nd Ave. W.

All Saints Anglican Church. This historic frame structure was moved from Condie in 1946. A plaque reads: "To commemorate the construction of this Church in 1898 on land near Condie donated by M. Cullum; its consecration in 1899 as St. James, Condie; its service as that parish Church until 1925; its removal to this site to continue service; and the first service held September 19, 1948."



27N (1904) - 100 James St. N.

Will and Florence Kerr (Nurse), original owners, built on this site to house their automobile sales and repair business. Other owners, including the Critchleys and Butsons, altered or added onto the building. Many early residents of Lumsden will remember the building as the home of the Lumsden Young Men's Association, or LYMA Club, which met every week between 1933 and 1953.



1S (1908) - 190 Qu'Appelle Dr. W.

These two small homes first belonged to related families - the Barkshires, who lived at 170 Qu'Appelle Drive West, and the Horners, who lived at 190. Their relationship was through the marriage of the Horner's daughter, Edith, to Arthur Barkshire, a fact that goes a long way in explaining why the two houses are so similar. The 1901 and 1906 Canadian census records have both families farming in the Cottonwood district south of Lumsden. Then, in 1908, the Lumsden newspaper reported: "Mr. Horner is erecting a residence in the west end opposite Messrs. A. and G. Mutch's residence (house 3S). Fred Gibson has the contract for the stonework and masonry". There is evidence the Berkshires might have been living in Lumsden by 1913.



2S (CA 1913) - 170 Qu'Appelle Dr. W.



3S (1908) - 145 Qu'Appelle Dr. W.

This home was constructed in 1908 for a cost of \$11,500 for the Mutch's - Alexander and Isabella Mutch and their children, and Alex's twin brother, George. Builders Fred Gibson and Mac Wilkie were involved in the project. Mutch's daughter, Isabel, was a well-known Canadian singer in the 1930s and 40s. Later, the Dave Gibbs family bought the lovely home.



4S (1900) - 130 Carss Road

This home, with its veneer brick façade, still has the basement cistern in place. The present owners added the back and front porches. Early pictures show that when the house was built, there were very few trees or shrubs on the hillside.



5S (1903) - 100 Carss Road

The “ Three Sisters” houses on the south hill beside James St. N, have been a part of Lumsden’s skyline since the early 1900’s. The “Sister” in the picture above is the most westerly home and was occupied for a while by Robert and Mary Kinnon, whose granddaughter, Agnes Martin, became a recognized abstract artist in the USA.



6S (1901) - 125 James St. S.

Dr. and Mrs. N. Anderson had this home constructed. Dr. Anderson was Lumsden’s first doctor. In addition, he operated a pharmacy and provided emergency dental care. The Andersons are associated with two historic homes in Lumsden: this house and, later, the home located at 605 James St. N. (Map#11N).



7S (1909) - 110 Prospect Pl.

This house was the retirement home of William Edward and Helen Cooney (Barkshire). Most accounts indicate that Mr. Cooney was one of a group of about seven men from the Cobourg, Ontario area who arrived at “Old Crossing” west of Regina on Wascana Creek on May 24, 1882. All took up homesteads, becoming the first white settlers in the area.



8S (1912) - 45 Kelly Ave.

This house, with its distinctive curved peak, was the home of Charles and Ada (or Ida) Hynds who operated the newspaper in Lumsden for many years. They came to Lumsden in 1904, a few weeks before that spring’s big flood that covered all of the valley’s low ground, including the village of Lumsden. During the high water, they tented in the valley’s hills with many other town residents.



9S (1910) - 35 Kelly Ave.

This house was the home of David and Mabel Balfour (Halstead). David was a part owner of the Balfour Brothers’ General Store for a time and then turned his interests to mercantile and grain trading and investment banking. Mr. Balfour served on Town Council, 1907 - 1908, and Mrs. Balfour was a founding member of the Lumsden Priscilla Club.



10S (1913) - 230 Elgin Cres.

This home was the home of Henry and Mary Schuler. Henry was born in Germany in 1853. By the Census of 1901 he is recorded as farming 480 acres in the Lumsden area with his wife, Mary. Their son, also Henry, was also a homesteader.



11S (1904) - 265 Elgin Cres.

William Smith, an early town councilor and mayor, had this home built in 1904. The Arthur Pearson family purchased the home in 1942. Arthur's father established the Pearson Land Co. in 1902, which played an important roll in agricultural settlement around Last Mountain Lake. Arthur served in WW1 and was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1957 by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.



12S (1912) - 350 Elgin Cres.

Margaret and James Rehill built this home. Like many homes of this era, the basement walls are made of concrete and fieldstones and are 2 - 3 feet thick. The original boiler system is still in place circulating water by gravity and providing a silent, even heat. However, when starting the system up, it can take up to a day for the house to warm.



13S (CA 1906) - 235 Qu'Appelle Dr. E.

Originally built by the Presbyterian Church as a home for its minister, it became the United Church's manse after the merger of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in 1925. It is now a private home.



14S (1904) - 115 Elgin Cres.

Although this home was built in 1904 for Herb Hall, who was associated with the Hall Milling Co. of Lumsden, it has become known as the Wilbur Carss home. Wilbur was a member of the Carss family from Fitzroy, Ontario. Edward Carss is recognized as the first white settler in the Lumsden District, arriving in 1881.



15S (CA 1904) - 165 Elgin Cres.

W.T. (William) and Jennie Balfour (Carss) are closely associated with this home. Both the Balfour and Carss families were early homesteaders in the Lumsden area. William became a partner in the Balfour Brothers store in 1905. He served on Town Council in 1921, 1941, and 1942. Both he and Jennie were active in the United Church.



16S (1904) - 175 Elgin Cres.

William and Margaret Fulton (Fyffe) and family were early inhabitants of this house. Their daughter, Edith Fowke (Fulton), became a leading Canadian folklorist. She was also a professor at York University, Toronto. Mr. Fulton started the Premier Garage on James Street (where the pharmacy/dentist/flower shop are located), eventually selling it to the Kembel family.



17S (1907) - 200 Elgin Cres.

This small, quaint brick house was built in 1907 for James and Catherine East, who immigrated to Canada from England in 1891. The home has only had four owners: the Easts, followed by the Sleds (John T. and then James D.) and Bill and Jean McGill.



18S (1906) - 180 Elgin Cres.

Originally the home of the Fred Gibson family. Other owners have included the Kopas family whose son, Jack, went on to become a top sulky trainer and driver in both Canada and the USA. He was twice voted Canadian Horseman of the year (1969 and 1976) and was elected in the Canadian Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 1989 and the USA Harness Hall of Fame in 1994.



19S (1910) - 160 Elgin Cres.

Built in 1910 as the retirement home of John and Helen Cornish. As is the case with a number of other Lumsden homes, the house has an elaborate hot water/steam heating system complete with classical cast-iron radiators of the time. The large veranda is also typical of houses of that era.



20S (1909) - 165 Qu'Appelle Dr. E.

This is another Kinnon built house, constructed in 1909 for a cost of \$2,300. In the book *Lumsden the Hills of Home*, it is referred to as “the honeymoon home”. Today, it is probably known more so as the Cameron home for the family who occupied it for many years.



21S (1906) - 115 King St.

Originally erected by Lumsden's Presbyterian congregation, this building became St. Andrews United Church when the Methodist and Presbyterian churches joined to form the United Church of Canada in 1925. The Methodist church building was sold and torn down in the 1940s; however, its cornerstone was removed and placed on the east side of the main door of St. Andrews.

Lumsden and Area Attractions



The Lumsden Museum, located along Qu'Appelle Drive West, is open daily during July and August and by appointment during May, June and September. Tours welcome.



Kennel or St. Nicholas Anglican Church, one of the most photographed little churches in the province, is located a few kilometers east of Craven on the south side of the valley.



The Hudson Bay's fur trading post, Last Mountain House, sits along highway #20 near the turn-off to Silton. It's open from July 1 to Labour Day, Thursday through Sunday, from 10 am to 4 pm.



This cone-shaped building, completed in 1960, was the studio of artist John Nugent. Its modernist style won a Massey Silver Medal for its designer, Saskatchewan architect Clifford Wiens. The studio, which is located on 8th Avenue, is one of the provinces designated heritage sites.



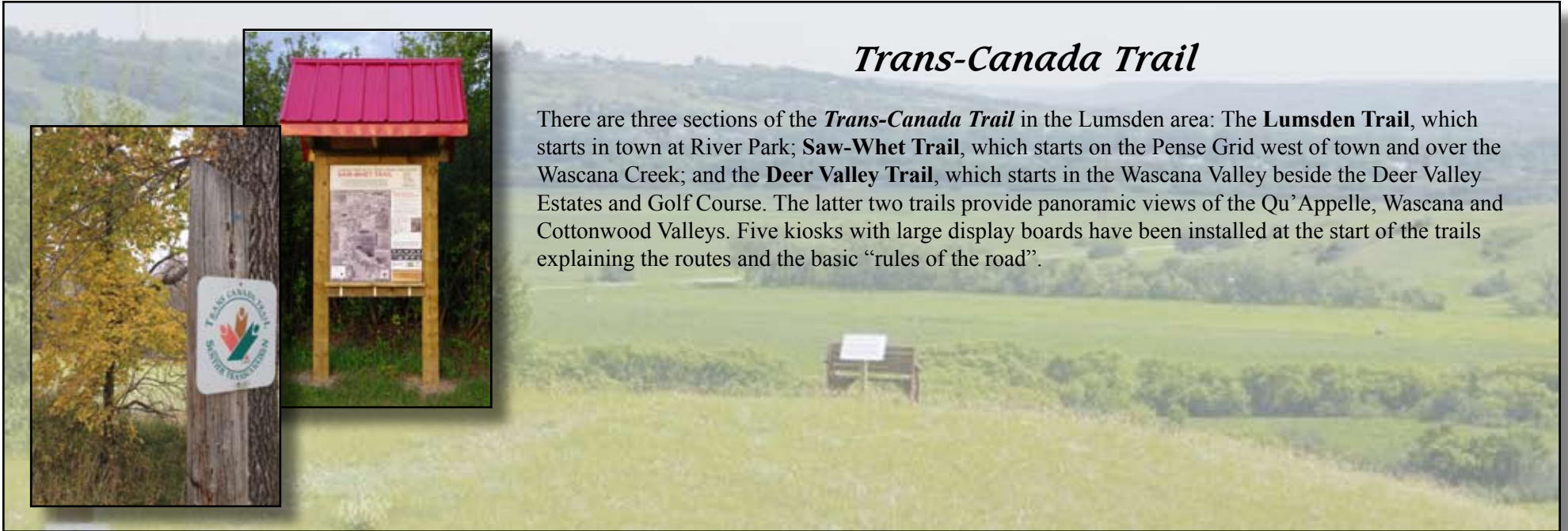
The Lumsden area's famous market gardens are located along highway 20 between Lumsden and Craven. During the growing season, they offer garden fresh vegetables and some fruits.



This pole carving that stands along James Street North, was designed by the late Gary Thurber, artist and teacher. Gary started the project but eventually asked two of his friends, Don Bird and Bill Wisniewski, to help him finish it. The pole was made from the trunk of a cottonwood tree that was cut down due to old age.

Trans-Canada Trail

There are three sections of the *Trans-Canada Trail* in the Lumsden area: The **Lumsden Trail**, which starts in town at River Park; **Saw-Whet Trail**, which starts on the Pense Grid west of town and over the Wascana Creek; and the **Deer Valley Trail**, which starts in the Wascana Valley beside the Deer Valley Estates and Golf Course. The latter two trails provide panoramic views of the Qu'Appelle, Wascana and Cottonwood Valleys. Five kiosks with large display boards have been installed at the start of the trails explaining the routes and the basic “rules of the road”.

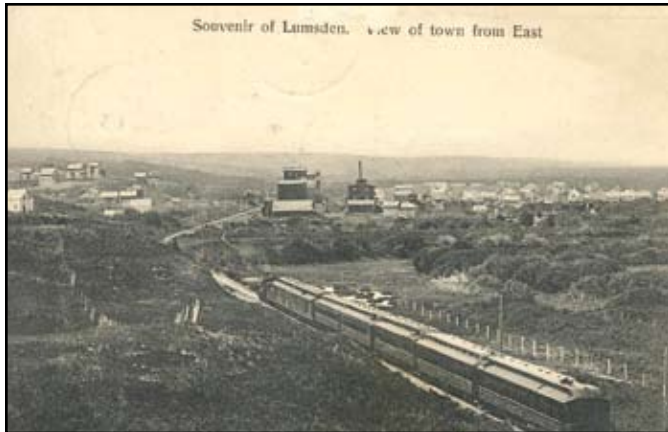




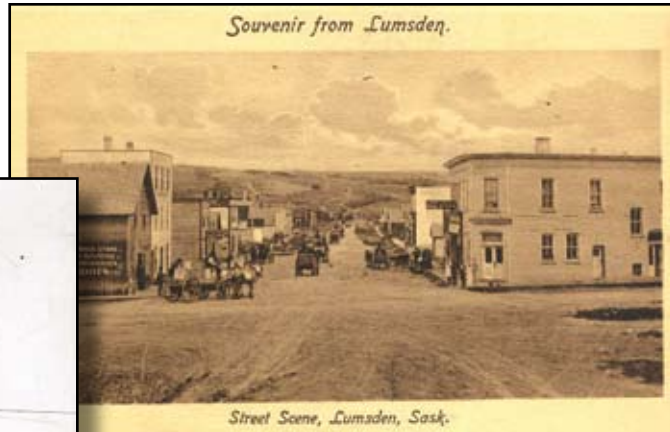




Souvenir of Lumsden. view of town from East



Souvenir from Lumsden.



Street Scene, Lumsden, Sask.



