

Manitoba History Timeline

The following timelines for Manitoba's history have been adapted from ***Manitoba: 125***, a three-volume history of Manitoba published in Winnipeg in 1993 by Great Plains Publications Ltd. The set contains Volume 1, *Rupert's Land to Riel*, Volume 2, *Gateway to the West*, and Volume 3, *Decades of Diversity*.

The three timelines correspond to the titles above:

- **Rupert's Land to Riel (11,500 B.C. to 1870)**
- **Gateway to the West (1870 to 1939)**
- **Decades of Diversity (1939 to Present)**

RUPERT'S LAND TO RIEL

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| 11,500 B.C. | Clovis people cross northern Asia to North American along the Bering land bridge. |
| 5,000 to 6,000 B.C. | The last 15,000 year period of glaciations ends. |
| August 3, 1610 | Henry Hudson sails the <i>Discoverie</i> into the bay which bears his name. |
| June 21, 1611 | Hudson and 8 other are set adrift by a mutinous crew. Never to be seen again. |
| August 15, 1916 | Thomas Button sailing with the <i>Discoverie</i> and the <i>Resolution</i> discovers and names the Nelson River. |
| September 5, 1919 | Denmark's Jens Munk, aboard the <i>Unicorn</i> , sails into what is now Churchill Harbour. |
| September 29, 1668 | Medard Chouart, Sieur de Groseilliers, aboard the <i>Nonsuch</i> , arrive at Rupert River in Hudson Bay. |
| May 2, 1670 | King Charles II issues a Charter to Prince Rupert and the Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay (Hudson's Bay |

Company) thereby creating Rupert's Land. The Charter included "all territory draining into the rivers flowing into Hudson Bay.

June 12, 1690

Henry Kelsey undertakes an expedition to the country of the Assiniboines. Becomes the first European man to see the prairies.

September 5, 1967

d'Iberville sinks two English ships in Hudson Bay.

1731

Construction on Fort Prince of Wales begins.

September 24, 1738

Pierre Gaultiere de Varennes, Sieur de La Verendrye is the first European man to see the future site of Winnipeg. He builds Fort Rouge at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers.

Winter 1779

The North West Fur Company is organized in Montreal.

1809

The North West Company builds Fort Gibraltar at a point northwest of the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.

September 4, 1812

Near the Red River, Miles Macdonnell proclaimed to the local inhabitants Lord Selkirk's ownership of the 185,000 square kilometres that constitute Assiniboia.

January 8, 1814

Miles Macdonnell issues the "Pemmican Proclamation," prohibiting the export of food beyond Selkirk's territory.

October 21, 1814

Miles Macdonnell orders the Nor'Wester's to quit their posts throughout Assiniboia.

June 15, 1815

Nor'Westers Duncan Cameron convinced 140 colonists to abandon the settlement and journey to Upper Canada.

June 19, 1816

The Battle of Seven Oaks takes place. Governor Robert Semple, 20 settlers and one Métis were killed.

Spring 1817

Lord Selkirk's military force reaches Red River and recaptures Fort Douglas.

Summer 16, 1818

Fathers Provencher and Dumoulin arrive at Red River.

September 1818

The first school at Red River is established in what would later become St. Boniface.

June 1, 1821

The Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company merge.

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| April 18, 1822 | Fort Gibraltar renamed Fort Garry in honour of Nicholas Garry. |
| June 10, 1821 | The first Anglican Church is consecrated. |
| April 28, 1826 | Ice on the Red River begins breaking up, marking the start of the greatest recorded flood in Manitoba history. |
| 1834 | Thirty-three years after selling Assiniboia to Lord Selkirk, Hudson's Bay Company re-purchases the vast territory from the Selkirk estate. |
| 1835 - 36 | The new Fort Garry, made of stone, is under construction near the junction of Red and Assiniboine Rivers. |
| June 1837 | The second St. Boniface Cathedral, featuring twin turrets, is built. |
| December 22, 1844 | Louis Riel was born. |
| 1844 | The Grey nuns arrive at Red River from Montreal. |
| May 17, 1847 | The outcome of the Pierre Sayer trial poses a significant challenge to the trading monopoly of the Hudson's Bay Company. |
| June 10, 1859 | The first steamboat on the Red River, the <i>Anson Northup</i> arrived at the Red River settlement. |
| December 28, 1859 | The first edition of the <i>Nor'Wester</i> , Manitoba's first newspaper, is published at Red River. |
| February 21, 1861 | The second St. Boniface Cathedral is destroyed by fire. |
| July 1, 1867 | Confederation unites Upper Canada (Ontario), Lower Canada (Quebec), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. |
| November 2, 1869 | Armed Métis turned back Canadian appointed Lieutenant Governor William McDougall. Riel and his men seized fort Garry. |
| November 27, 1869 | Provisional Government, incorporating most elements of Red River society, is formed. |
| December 7, 1869 | Louis Riel arrested 56 people at Dr. Schultz's store. |
| December 27, 1869 | Louis Riel elected President of the Provisional Government. |

January 19, 1870

Canadian negotiator Donald A. Smith addressed a crowd of more than 1,000 in Fort Garry, regarding the Canadian Government's intentions of the Northwest.

March 4, 1870

Thomas Scott is executed by order of Louis Riel.

May 12, 1870

The Manitoba Act, outlining the province's entry into Confederation, is assented.

GATEWAY TO THE WEST

- May 12, 1870** Parliament passed Manitoba Act, creating new province of Manitoba.
- July 15, 1870** Province of Manitoba officially admitted into Confederation. Winnipeg became capital of both Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.
- August 1870** The Red River Expedition led by Col. Garnet J. Wolseley, arrived at Fort Garry and took possession of the fort. Riel fled to the United States. Wolseley asked HBC Commissioner Donald A. Smith to administer the government pending the arrival of the lieutenant-governor.
- September 2, 1870** Lieutenant-Governor A.G. Archibald arrived at Fort Garry.
- December 30, 1870** First election held for the province's Legislative Assembly.
- March 15, 1871** First session of the first Legislature held in a house bought from A.G.B. Bannatyne. Twenty-eight members were present.
- May 3, 1871** First Manitoba Public School Act.
- August 3, 1871** Lieutenant-Governor Archibald and native leaders gathered at Lower Fort Garry to sign Treaty 1. Treaty 2 was signed August 21.
- October 5, 1871** Fenians from the United States entered Manitoba and seized the HBC post at Pembina. Later they were captured by a corps of United States troops whom Lieutenant-Governor Archibald had given permission to cross the border.
- November 9, 1872** First edition of the *Manitoba Free Press* appeared.
- November 8, 1873** City of Winnipeg incorporated, with four wards and 12 aldermen.
- July 31, 1874** First Russian Mennonites arrived at Winnipeg on the steamer *International*.
- October 10, 1874** Ambroise Lepine found guilty of aiding Riel in the murder of Thomas Scott and sentenced to hang on January 29, 1875. His sentence was later commuted to two years' imprisonment.
- October 11, 1875** First Icelandic immigrants arrived in Winnipeg
- October 7, 1876** Northwest Territories Act passes, separating them from Manitoba. Winnipeg would no longer be capital of the Territories.

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| October 21, 1876 | First shipment of wheat from Manitoba to Ontario, some 857 bushels valued at \$835.71 |
| February 28, 1877 | Law Society of Manitoba incorporated. University of Manitoba chartered. |
| October 10, 1877 | Manitoba's first railway locomotive-the Countess of Dufferin- arrived in St. Boniface via steamer. |
| November 2, 1878 | John McBeth, last member of the first group of Selkirk settlers, dies at Kildonan. |
| December 24, 1878 | First freight by rail reached St. Boniface. Two days later, the first freight for export was shipped by rail from St. Boniface via steamer. |
| March 21, 1881 | Manitoba Boundaries Act passed in Parliament, providing for an extension of the province's borders. |
| December 11, 1883 | Standard time adopted throughout the province. |
| August 11, 1884 | Boundary dispute between Manitoba and Ontario settled by a decision of the judicial committee of the Privy Council. |
| March 17, 1885 | Louis Riel elected president of the Provisional Government in the Northwest Territories, launching the Northwest Rebellion. |
| May 9 - 12, 1885 | Battle of Batoche, Métis leader Louis Riel's last stand, He was taken prisoner May 15. |
| November 16, 1885 | Louis Riel executed at Regina. |
| March 1890 | Denominational (separate) school system abolished in Manitoba. |
| October, 1892 | First Ukrainians reached Winnipeg. |
| 1906 | Manitoba enacted legislation for a government-run telephone system, By January 15, 1908; Manitoba Government Telephones was operating the first such public utility in North America. |
| May 10, 1910 | The steamer <i>Victoria</i> passed through the New St. Andrews Locks. The locks were formally opened July 15. |
| February 26, 1912 | Manitoba's new boundaries announced, increasing its size to present day borders. |

- May 12, 1915** Government of Rodmond P. Roblin resigned over Legislative Buildings' scandal, and T.C. Norris becomes Premier.
- January 27, 1916** Women's Suffrage Bill adopted by the Manitoba Legislature. Manitoba Women become first with right to vote and hold provincial office.
- March 13, 1916** Prohibition introduced and bars banished under the Manitoba Temperance Act.
- August 1916** Compulsory Education Act came into effect.
- October 11, 1918** Ban placed on all public gatherings due to the Spanish Influenza epidemic.
- April 5, 1919** Greater Winnipeg Aqueduct completed, and soft water from Shoal Lake turned on in Winnipeg.
- May 15, 1919** Winnipeg General Strike began as street car workers walked off the job.
- June 21, 1919** Winnipeg General Strike culminated as Mounties charge a crowd of strikers and shots are fired. Two men die as a result of the struggle.
- June 25, 1919** Winnipeg General Strike leaders who have not been taken into custody vote to end the strike. Services restored throughout the city.
- November 21, 1919** Golden Boy placed on the dome of the Legislative Building.
- June 29, 1920** Edith Rogers became first women elected to Manitoba Legislature.
- April 2, 1922** Canada's first commercial radio station, CJCG, was introduced by the *Free Press*.
- June 1920** Provincial government repealed prohibition and established the Liquor Control Commission.
- March 1926** Winnipeg's James A. Richardson formed Western Canada Airways Incorporation.
- April 3, 1929** Last spike driven on the Hudson Bay Railway at Churchill. By August, 1931, the terminal elevator dock and other port facilities were in operation.
- October 4, 1929** The value of stocks plummeted on North American stock exchanges, signalling the beginning of the Depression.

June 15, 1930

The Diamond Jubilee of Manitoba's entry into Confederation was celebrated.

July 15, 1930

Control over Manitoba's natural resources was transferred from the federal government to the province.

September 1935

Federal government created the new Canadian Wheat Board.

September 10, 1939

Canada declared war on Germany.



DECADES OF DIVERSITY

- September 10, 1939** Canada declared war on Germany.
- Spring 1442** Manitoba Power Commissions began its rural electrification program.
- September 1943** All wheat marketing in Western Canada was placed under the Canadian Wheat Board. Wheat futures trading ended on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange.
- May 7, 1945** Manitobans celebrated V-E- Day.
- 1946** The federal government cancelled half the province's Depression-era debt and paid a subsidy to Manitoba in return for it giving up the right to levy income and corporate taxes.
- April - May, 1950** Southern Manitoba was gripped by severe flooding, forcing thousands of evacuations and causing millions of dollars worth of property damages.
- February 1951** Manitoba's first commercial oil well was tapped in the Virden area.
- 1952** Legislation passed allowing women to sit on juried in the Virden area.
- 1952** Manitoba aboriginals were given the right to vote provincially.
- May 31, 1954** Television broadcasting arrived in Manitoba when CBC Winnipeg signed on.
- February 1956** A massive nickel discovery was made in the Moak Lake area, leading to the creation of Thompson.
- 1956** Stephan Juba became the first non-Anglo-Saxon mayor to hold office in Winnipeg.
- 1959** Polo Park was built, Winnipeg's first major shopping centre.
- 1962** Thelma Forbes was named the first woman Speaker in the legislature.
- 1963** Liberal Margaret Rogers Konantz became the first Manitoba women elected to the House of Commons.
- 1966** Official opening of the Greater Winnipeg Floodway, also known as Duff's Ditch.

- 1967** 100th anniversary of Canada's Confederation celebrated around the province.
- June 1, 1967** The Manitoba government introduced a 5% sales tax.
- 1967** Winnipeg hosted the Pan Am Games.
- 1967** The University of Winnipeg and Brandon University were founded.
- 1969** Red River Community College was opened.
- June 24, 1969** Edward Schreyer formed Canada's first New Democratic Party provincial government.
- 1969** Folklorama was staged for the first time.
- 1970** Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Phillip and other dignitaries helped celebrate Manitoba's 100th birthday.
- January 1, 1972** The formation of Unicity made Winnipeg the first major Canadian city to move to a single administration for its entire metropolitan area.
- 1972** Following heated debate, private auto insurance was replaced by the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.
- 1972** The Winnipeg Jets signed hockey star Bobby Hull and played their first season in the new Winnipeg Hockey Association.
- August 9, 1974** The first Winnipeg Folk Festival took place at Bird's Hill Park.
- April 30, 1976** The Royal Canadian Mint's St. Boniface plant opened.
- 1977** The Northern Flood Agreement was prepared, an offer of compensation for northern Métis and native communities who were flooded during the re-routing of the Nelson and Churchill rivers for hydro-electric projects.
- January 22, 1979** Former Manitoba premier Edward Schreyer was sworn in as Canada's 22nd Governor-General
- February 24, 1979** An underground pedestrian mall at Winnipeg's Portage and Main was opened by Mayor Robert Steen, marking an end to human traffic at Canada's most famous corner.

- December 13, 1979** The Supreme Court of Canada declared Manitoba's Official Languages Act (1890) to be invalid. After more court battles, the province eventually agreed it would restore French language services, as provided for in Section 23 of the 1870 Manitoba Act.
- August 27, 1980** After 90 years, the *Winnipeg Tribune* closed.
- October 23, 1981** Pearl McGonigal, deputy mayor of Winnipeg, was sworn in as Manitoba's 19th Lieutenant-Governor, the province's first.
- Autumn 1983** In a series of municipal plebiscites, Manitoba voters overwhelmingly rejected the provincial entrenchment of French language rights and services.
- June 1985** The Supreme Court of Canada declared all of Manitoba's English-only laws invalid and gave the provincial government three years to translate them into French.
- March 8, 1988** NDP Speaker Jim Walding, still angry with the Premier Howard Pawley for having refused him a cabinet post, toppled his own government by voting with the Progressive Conservative against the budget.
- December 18, 1988** Garry Filmon presented the federal government's Meech Lake constitutional accord to the Manitoba legislature for ratification.
- July 23, 1989** Province declared a state of emergency due to the large number of forest fires ranging throughout the north and the forced evacuation of thousands of northern residents.
- June 22, 1990** NDP MLA Elijah Harper's seventh and final refusal to allow debate to proceed in the Manitoba legislature in the Meech Lake constitutional accord effectively killing the federal government's constitutional deal.
- August 29, 1991** Two-volume report of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry was released. The report stated natives were generally not treated equally in the justice system and called for aboriginal self-government.
- October 9, 1991** Approximately 10,000 Manitoba farmers and their supporters demonstrated in Winnipeg against low grain prices and high production costs, the next, the federal government responded with \$800 million of various levels of prices.



October 26, 1992

Some 61.7% of Manitobans voted against the federal government's newest constitutional offering, the Charlottetown Accord, one of the highest *NO* votes in Canada.

January 23, 1993

108 years after Louis Riel was hanged for his role in the Red River resistance, Métis leader Yvon Dumony was sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

August 15, 1995

Spirit of Manitoba, a group organized to try to save the Winnipeg Jets Franchised, announced it cannot raise enough funds to keep the team in Manitoba.