

## The Old Red Barn

The barn was built through a Local Initiative Program (LIP) and the materials used came from an old barn and two granaries that were carefully dismantled and re-assembled on the present site. Encompassed in the lean-to's of the barn are the solid oak beams taken from the "Yuill" granary. This structure is typical of the construction and architecture of the local barns that at one time dotted the prairie landscape.



As you enter the barn, you will see on your right the village shoe repair shop complete with sole stitcher machine, and on your left the harness repair shop. Note the oxen yokes hanging between the stalls. The next stall on the right contains a workshop with a wide variety of old tools. The stall across from that contains a blacksmith shop.

The bison is a two year old from Wainwright, Alberta. It was donated by Dr. Rae in the 1970's. The background painting for the bison display was done by local artists Doris Cunningham and Jack Hassard. The scene that you are looking at is typical of what early settlers would have seen when they arrived here. Note the density of the thick prairie grass. The bison would roll in the dirt to cool themselves. The walking plough in this display belonged to David Little and was the one used in 1900 to win the World Ploughing Championship.

Across the aisle, you are greeted by a display of Manitoba birds, including a very rare Albino Blackbird! On the ground there are also a number of local mammals, including a beaver munching on a tree.

## Back Room of Barn

On the right as you enter, you will see a display of brick moulds and wheelbarrows from the Portage brick yards. Above them is a selection of wooden moulds from Link Manufacturing of Portage la Prairie.

The first showcase contains a collection of old woodworking tools, many used in the construction of the earliest homes and buildings in the area. The next contains early surveyor's equipment and notebooks. On the wall above are butcher tools from the Portage Abattoir, and along the north wall you will see egg incubators, a cream tester, and several different cream separators.

The buggy was one of the principle means of transportation before the arrival of the automobile. The very large, round butter churn is from the old Portage Creamery.

## Upstairs in the Barn

On your way upstairs note the old section maps and the display of different grain samples. On this upper floor you will find a display of old sewing machines, washing machines and water pumps. Along the north wall is our garden equipment display with old lawn mowers, scythes, hay rakes and

chain saws. The showcase features many beautiful old quilts from the local area. The ribbon quilt and the trophies on the north end are from the Horticultural Society, the trophies in the centre are from the Portage Ploughing Matches, and the ones on the south end are from the Good Roads Association. In the southwest corner, there is a “bone crusher” used for making bone meal for fertilizer.

On the end wall is a “keyhole” door (named for the shape of the window), and the large doors from the first courthouse in Portage la Prairie, as well as the magistrate’s chair, table and witness box from the same location.

