

## East Braintree/Hadashville - Native Orchid Conservation Inc.

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The RM of Reynolds is the largest in Manitoba: 1,333 sections of land with a current population of 1,410. The area was first settled by loggers around 1895; previously the Dakota Sioux and Ojibway lived there. It was named after S.H. Reynolds, an assistant engineer on the construction of the aqueduct from Winnipeg to Shoal Lake about 1917. After construction of the aqueduct and the GWWD railway about 1919, a colonization scheme encouraged people to settle along the railway.

Today we will see three rivers: Boggy River, Birch River and Whitemouth River and some interesting geographical features:

**Caribou Bog**- 1100-1150' asl. It drains into the Boggy River in the north and the Whitemouth River in the west. Further south it drains into Harrison Creek and Lake of the Woods.

**Hwy#308 and the Old Dawson Trail** – A section of this road from NW Angle to Ste. Anne was built between 1868-71 through the bog on the sandy ridges that formed one of the beachheads of old Lake Agassiz. An old brass cannon and \$10,000 in gold were lost in this bog in 1868 and have not yet found (yet). Caribou travelled through the area until the early 1940s.

**Brooke's Quarry** – at Mile 79. Granite and diorite, open from 1915-20. Bats overwinter there.

**Shoal Lake Aqueduct** brings water from Shoal Lake to Winnipeg. It is 97 miles long and was started on October 1913 and completed in 1914. The aqueduct is constructed of 8' sections of "lock- joint" reinforced concrete pressure pipes. Each section weighs about 8 tons. There are various clean-out and inspection places along the way. We used to walk to school on the aqueduct in summer and always referred to it as "the Dump".

**GWWD railway** - constructed in 1915. The railway goes from Dawson Station on Plinquet Ave in St. Boniface to Shoal Lake, a distance of 110 miles with the wye's and switches included. We will cross it at Wye at Mile 80.4 and at East Braintree. In 1934 a one-way ticket from Winnipeg to Wye at Mile 80 cost \$2.60. In the very early years the steam train was very slow and hauled passengers along with freight. It would start from St. Boniface at 8a.m. and arrive in East Braintree at midnight! Quite an exhausting trip for the passengers jammed near the steam train boiler which was horribly hot in the summertime. Later on they purchased the so-called gas-car that took about four hours to make the same trip. The gas-car didn't travel every day and I can remember as a 4-5 year old child in the mid-1940s meeting the steam train. The whole project - aqueduct, railway and colonization expenditures - cost \$10,625,943.02, several million under budget.

**First post office at East Braintree 1919** - The first postmaster Lionel Wilson promptly changed the name of the district from Midwinter to East Braintree, much to the disgust of the residents. Mr. Midwinter, a city of Winnipeg alderman, donated the land for the school in 1917 and the people had wanted to name the settlement after him. The school remained open until 1968.

**Midwinter Heritage Museum** - in old Midwinter school in East Braintree- an excellent place to find out about local history.

**Manitoba Forestry Association, Sandilands Discovery Centre, Hadashville** - Founded in 1957, it comprises a youth education-museum, nature trails, suspension bridge over the Whitemouth River.

**Hadashville** - founded in 1912 originally called Reynolds. Named after first postmaster Charlie Hadash.

**McMunn** post office opened in 1918 and closed 1969. It is a railway point of the GWWD line and was named after the first postmaster, James A. McMunn who settled there in 1914.

## **References**

Aqueduct Construction Scheme: What It Is, What It Means. GWWD Administration Board, 1918.

Packsack of the Decades. Hadashville Women's Institute, 1970.

Pioneer History of Glen, East Braintree and McMunn. Esther Anderson Feilberg and Lorna Feilberg Annell, 1989.

The Muskeg Limited- the first 80 years of the GWWD Railway. Peter Lacey.

Dawson Trail- Southeastern Manitoba Visitors Guide. Dan Guetre.

Geographical Names of Manitoba. Gerald Holm, Manitoba Geographical Names Program, Manitoba Conservation 2001,

## **Prospective Species List (depends on weather)**

The area is well known for its diverse species mix and rare plants. The botanist on Sir Sanford Fleming's Expedition in 1872 collected 400 plant species in one day on this part of the Dawson while travelling between the NorthWest Angle and Ste.Anne.

### **Old E.B Dump Site**

Beaked hazelnut- *Corylus cornuta*  
Bearberry- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*  
Trailing Arbutus- *Epigaea repens*  
Ground Cedar- *Lycopodium complanatum*  
Stiff Clubmoss- *Lycopodium annotinum*  
Common Horsetail- *Equisetum arvensis*  
Prince's Pine or Pipsissewa- *Chimaphila umbellata*  
Wintergreen Berry or Teaberry- *Gaultheria procumbens*  
Pygmy Flower- *Androsace septentrionalis*

### **MFA Trail**

Prairie Pussytoes-*Antennaria campestris*  
Strawberry- *Fragaria glauca*  
Hoary Puccoon- *Lithospermum canescens*  
Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*  
Arrow-leaved Coltsfoot- *Petasites sagittatus*  
Prairie Crocus-*Anemone patens*  
Bloodroot-*Sanguinaria canadense*  
Nuttall's Yellow Violet- *Viola Nuttallii*  
Horse's Hoof Fungus-*Fomes fomentarius*  
White Violet- *Viola canadensis*  
American Hazelnut- *Corylus americana*  
Sun-loving Sedge- *Carex pensylvanica*  
Assiniboia Sedge—*Carex assiniboensis*  
Trailing Arbutus- *Epigaea repens*

Wild Ginger- *Asarum canadense*  
 Wood Anemone- *Anemone parviflora*  
 Nodding Trillium- *Trillium cernuum*  
 Ostrich Fern- *Matteucia struthopteris*  
 Morel Mushroom- *Morchella deliciosa*  
 Purple Rock Cress- *Arabis divaricarpa*  
 Early Blue Violet- *Viola adunca*  
 Northern Bog Violet- *Viola nephrophylla*  
 Pale Comandra a.k.a. Bastard Toadflax- *Comandra pallida*  
 Sand Cherry- *Prunus pumila*  
 Saskatoon- *Amelanchier alnifolia*  
 Pin Cherry- *Prunus pensylvanica*  
 Canada Plum- *Prunus nigra*



Prairie Crocus



Female beaked hazelnut flower



Teaberry



Bearberry (kinnikinnick)



Trailing arbutus



Prince's-pine wintergreen



Marsh marigold



Bloodroot



Sun-loving sedge



Snowy egret



Nodding trillium

(Photos by Doris Ames, Derrick Ko Heinrichs, Eugene Reimer, Rose Kuzina & Richard Reeves.)