

**Holland and Tiger Hills Area Field Trip**  
**Native Orchid Conservation Inc. - August 23, 2014**

The Tiger Hills, the western extension of the Pembina Hills, were formed by the last glacier ca. 12,000 years ago, dropping sand and silt as it spilled into ancient Lake Agassiz.

In Treherne the Boyne Valley Trails consist of a 2.5 km pathway through the town and a 1.5 km nature trail in the valley (we will walk along this latter one). This nature trail is part grass and part covered with crushed stone. Its covered bridge crosses the Boyne River. Treherne hosts the annual "Run for the Hills" marathon each fall with the course winding through the Tiger Hills. The late Bob Cain was the proud builder of a series of glass bottle structures, including a house, church, outhouse and wishing well all made of glass bottles. The Treherne Museum is home to a wide variety of antique and pioneer artifacts from the area. The outside of the buildings are brightly adorned with picturesque murals displaying scenes from Treherne and the area of years gone by. The buildings house a replica of the town, various collections, and First Nations artifacts. Other items on site include a fully furnished pioneer house, blacksmith shop, and antique farm machinery.

Holland is home to the Tiger Hills Arts Association. The art gallery is in the former Union Bank building, built in 1903, and was restored by Thomas J. Brunett. The building, now known as McFeetors Centre, has received Manitoba Historic Site designation. In the 1970s some talented, arts-oriented residents of the Holland area suggested a grand piano for its newly-built hall would be an asset. Following the purchase, these teachers of voice, band and piano and their students began to present concerts. Soon guest choirs and bands were featured events. As programming expanded, so did the out-of-town interest. A charter, signed February 10, 1978 qualified the brand-new Tiger Hills Arts Association for grants from the Department of Cultural Affairs. THAA activities include a wide spectrum of multigenerational programming, including Suzuki Strings, bus tours for seniors, woodcarving, sketching, watercolour, crafts, music theory, drama and writing. Four annual events are sponsored by the THAA: the Festival Showcase, Talent Search and Canada Day festivities. A variety of performers have made their way right to Holland to perform: Moe Koffman, Haygood Hardy, Shirley Eikhard, Connie Kaldor, Primadonna, Vancouver Chamber Choir, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Contemporary Dancers, Yugoslavia's Frulica Dance Troupe, Rankin Family, George Fox and many international groups. The THAA also acts as an umbrella group for the Tiger Hills Amateur Theatre, Prairie Red Coats Band, Country Quills, Tiger Hills Arts and Crafts Guild and Group of Eight Art Club.

The Cypress River Wetland Discovery Trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail system (which goes north to the eastern section of Spruce Woods Provincial Park), and provides a short boardwalk with information on the importance of wetlands. Cypress River (pop. 175-ish) is located along the Red Coat Trail, a 1,300-km route along the path taken in 1874 by the North-West Mounted Police in their quest to bring law and order to the Canadian West. Originally it was the town of Littleton (just a bit northeast of the present site) and was described as the "Best 'Little Town' on the Prairie", a play on the name of Robert & Nathaniel Little, the original circa-1880s founders. Built in the late 1880s, the Union Hotel was advertised as the "best Temperance Hotel in the west". Since 1922, the building has served as a grocery store; it is currently the Lucky Dollar. On Neil Young's 2005 album *Prairie Wind*, he refers to Cypress River on the title

track.

The Trappist Monks from the Monastery Our Lady of the Prairies are part of the contemplative Roman Catholic religious order called the Cistercian Order of Strict Observance. The Trappists originated in France but moved to Oka, Quebec in 1881 to escape religious persecution. In 1890 Monsignor Ritchot, parish priest of St. Norbert, and Archbishop Tache of St. Boniface invited them to come to the Red River Settlement to establish a monastery here in 1892. The day of a Trappist is divided between work and prayer. Manual work is preferred over other types of work and Trappist monasteries generally provide for themselves through the sale of goods produced in the monastery. As a contemplative order, the Trappists live a life of prayer and penance. By the 1970s they found that Winnipeg had spread too close and thus they relocated to the Holland area in 1978. The surrounding grounds include a late-1800s house, church and La Boutique, the Trappists' store where they sell their homemade oka cheese, syrup, jelly, honey and chocolate (note: they take cash only!).