

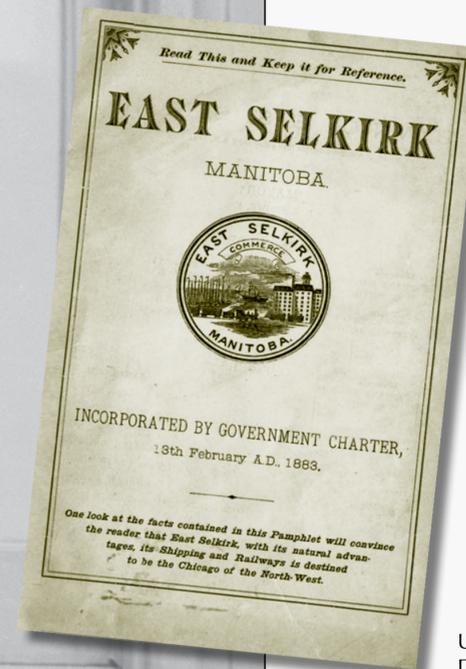
“ILLIMITABLE POSSIBILITIES”

“There is no spot...more delightful to live in...”



Polish immigrants on train for new home
Library and Archives Canada, William James Topley Collection, PA-010392

An 1883 East Selkirk pamphlet extolled the advantages of coming to the area.



Town on a field

The community of **Narol** is named for a town in southeastern Poland. In the 1600s, an earlier town near the Ukrainian border was destroyed by cossacks. A new town, Narol, was built “on a field” or “na roli” nearby.

University of Manitoba
Digital Collections

For many new immigrants, it reminded them of the country they left behind.

Beginning in the late 1800s, there were waves of immigration from Eastern Europe to Manitoba. One group that settled in this area between the late 1890s and World War I were Poles from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Canadian Pacific Railway publicly campaigned in Poland promoting employment opportunities in western Canada.

Immigrants endured a long sea voyage, a rail journey across Canada, and a temporary stay in a converted railway building in East

Selkirk. People then either continued west by train or staked their homestead land claim in Manitoba. Colonization agents didn't make it clear that the land the new immigrants would occupy here didn't have towns, schools, good roads, or local businesses.

Those who stayed settled in East Selkirk, Libau, Poplar Park, The Beaches, Garson, Lockport, Gonor, Narol, Thalberg, and Walkleyburg. Descendants of some of those early settlers still live here.

By the early 1920s, there was a large Ukrainian population in the municipality.



East Selkirk Immigration shed
Red River North Heritage

For more information on our area's history, please visit the Red River North Heritage website using the QR code below. Funding assistance for these signs was provided by the Manitoba government.



St. Clements
The place to be