



# The "Gathering Place" E-NEWS

## The Trails of 1885 - Saskatchewan's FIRST city joined the Trails of 1885 at this Launch June 5, 2010



Shown in this photo, singer song writer Violet Naytowhow, opens the Launch with a WELCOME song. The sweet song and tones of her beautiful voice were heard clearly through the borrowed Bose sound system, and felt by the winds whispering

their own welcome in return. The 80% chance of Thunder storm held off just long enough. Tourism manager Deb Honch said it was Violet's song that brought out the sun and held back the rain. A good and auspicious beginning to the Gathering Place Launch ...page 2

### CONTACTS

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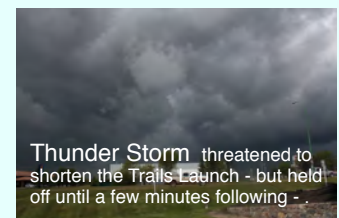
[princealberttourism.com](http://princealberttourism.com)

TRAILS OF 1885

a 5 year, 3 province project-

Historic sites in Saskatchewan will share more of the story than has previously been heard. Visit the sites and attend the special events planned.

[www.trailsof1885.com/](http://www.trailsof1885.com/)



### VISIT THE ORIGINAL SASKATCHEWAN TERRITORY - "NOT FLAT HERE"

TOURS guided can be arranged with Prince Albert Tourism and with any of the sites listed on the Trails of 1885. Self Guided Tours can be viewed from either web site with recommended places to visit. In the Prince Albert region key sites include the Tourism Centre and PA Historic Museum where staff can help with meeting special interests and requests; nearby are Duck Lake, Batoche, and St Laurent, all KEY sites on both the Trails of 1885 and

the Louis Riel Trail. Visitors can add early settlement history, explorer and fur trade history, and 1000's of years of First Nations history to their tours, in the very beautiful Valley of the mighty Saskatchewan Rivers where bison paved the first roads & glacial melt left lakes and forests and rolling plains.



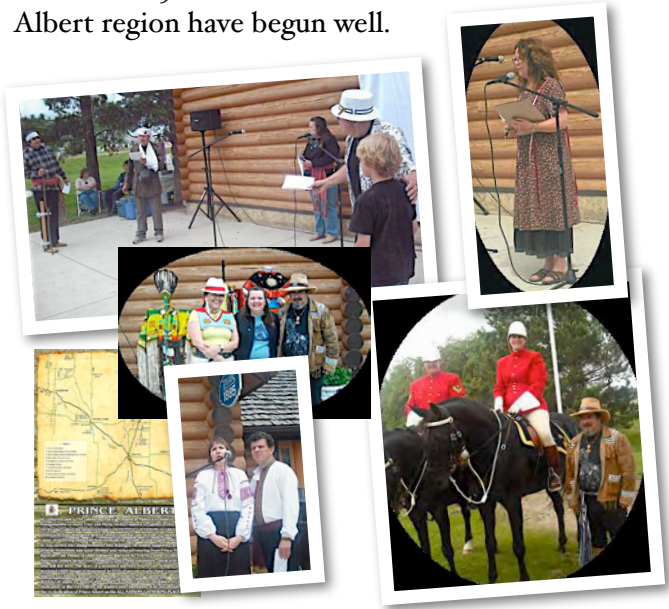


THE ALL NATIONS GATHERING PLACE 'STARTS' THE TRAILS OF 1885 EVENTS

Deb Honch wearing a Mohawk ribbon dress began this mornings launch with prayer - for Prince Albert, which is known by it's aboriginal names:

Omaniciye Makoca (Dakotan) and Kistapinanihk (to many Cree and Metis) as the All Nations Gathering Place. - for the communities and sites across Saskatchewan and our neighboring provinces who have chosen this year 2010 and the next 5 years, as the time to begin to "tell our stories" by becoming part of the Trails of 1885. Letters were read from our Canada MP and Saskatchewan MLA, more dignitaries spoke and were present representing: the City of Prince Albert, the Prince Albert Grand Council, the Indian & Metis Friendship Centre, the Metis Fall Festival, the Historical Society, Multi cultural society, the North West Mounted Police (now the RCMP), and the Trails of 1885 project. Entertainers touched hearts and minds. A Street Theatre Play titled "Wounded Warriors" reminded us all, in the Grandson Liam's words (after hearing from two warrior ghosts) that "Grandpa, History is still being written - the Governments story is not the only story". Thunder Storm warnings kept some

people away, but those who came were moved and grateful to have participated and experienced this meaningful launch of the all nations Gathering Place. Trails of 1885 events in the Prince Albert region have begun well.



UNVEILING THE INTERPRETIVE SIGN & VISION OF THE GATHERING PLACE

Appropriately the Gathering Place, into ancient history was a neutral territory where 'all nations' could gather to trade, share stories, medicines, ceremonies, talk and make peace, and celebrate each other's culture. In agreeing to join the Trails of 1885, the Gathering Place committee unveiled the Trails sign, remembers the City by it's ancient names and encourages the people of our region to share the stories of all our people "from the bison trails to the trails of 1885" - within the spirit of respect and peace that has always been the spirit of the Gathering Place.

Ancestors of warriors, leaders, and champions of the North West Resistance (Metis soldiers and supporters, First Nations, the Prince Albert Volunteers and NWMP, Settlers, and Farmers, and Government troops) still live here or return to find their ancestors stories. All have stories to tell and history to write. Our Historic sites include: a NWMP guard house, site of historic meetings that led to bringing Louis Riel out of exile, site of the Fort of Refuge where the women & children from the region stayed (during the Duck Lake and Batoche incidents),

fearing siege, site of Warriors Hill where a healing station is believed to have been that provided aid to some soldiers and warriors in 1885, St Mary's church and cemetery where many from 1885 are laid to rest and original home of the NWT's first college where education was provided to settlers and aboriginal people alike (after it's first 3 years instruction was also available in Cree). Language and Culture was genuinely respected at the Gathering Place and the vision of building a great and peace making city took another step today 125 years after events of 1885.



SPECIAL THANKS: To Volunteers. Performers: Violet Naytowhow, John Hanikenne, Matt Remenda, John & Mary Bodnarchuk, Morley Harrison and Liam, Gord Burns, Gordie Topping. RCMP who brought riders in NWMP red serge. Dignitaries who sent or delivered greetings. Media: TV, News, Radio, and Northern Image Photographers. The Gathering Place Committee & Friends. (We applied for event funding- still awaiting approval). Therefore this event had a zero budget, so owes profound gratitude to all the generous volunteers who gave so much.



VISITORS FIND TRAILS OF 1885 LEADS TO THEIR OWN ANCESTORS STORY

As part of the story WOUNDED WARRIORS two "ghosts" who were involved in 1885 arrive to clear up a few misunderstandings. Shown here, a Metis soldier of Louis Riels and a member of the Prince Albert Volunteers. In a fortunate story twist two of the audience members at the Trails launch at Prince Albert this day, came by "accident". Mr & Mrs Morton from British Columbia, Canada were on their way to Prince Albert to search out the story and hopefully a little history of one of their ancestors. That ancestor was Captain John Morton, of the NWMP Prince Albert Volunteers, who lost his life at Duck Lake, was one of those removed from the field afterward, buried first by Fort Carlton, then removed to St Mary's Cemetery in Prince Albert. The visitors stopped at the Regional Interpretive Museum at Duck Lake (also part of the Trails of 1885 project) and were encouraged to attend the event happening in Prince Albert on June 5. After the launch event they expressed heartfelt gratitude for all the assistance received. They were visiting the museums and sites here, had help from archivists, and felt

sincerely touched by the story shared in the play presented. Organizers have said from the beginning that it is the ancestors of today who need to know their own family stories and to recognize that all are part of the greater story of Canada's North West.



*'ghosts' of 1885 speak to a fascinated audience*

THE TRAILS OF 1885 PROJECT PROVIDES INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE -

Like the sign unveiled at the Tourism Centre in Prince Albert "The Gathering Place". Each sign summarizes the importance of that site to the Trails of 1885. Brochures, special coins and souvenirs are also available at the sites marked on the Trails of 1885.



THE GATHERING PLACE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES from:

Members of City Council, PA Tourism, PA Grand Council, Trails of 1885, Indian & Metis Friendship Centre, Metis Locals, Elders, RCMP, City Police, PA Historical Society, and many others who advice and have offered support.

*prepared by J McKay*