

Antelope Hill Provincial Park

Fact Sheet



LOCATION

- > East-central Alberta, approximately 2.5 km east of Dowling Lake, and north of Hanna
- > Land is 940 acres (380 hectares) in size

WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

- > Sprague's pipit and Baird's sparrow
- > Thirteen-lined ground squirrel
 - Species found only in the grasslands of North America (in Alberta, it is found mostly in the parkland region and also in a small band from Waterton to Cypress Hills)
- > Land is in proximity to Dowling Lake, which is an Important Bird Area
- > Also, deer, antelope, elk, wolves, skunks, ducks and other small animals

PLANT OBSERVATIONS

- > Slopes with cacti populations
- > Low-lying wetlands with willows, sedges, cattails and rushes
- > Presence of green needle grasses
- > Presence of healthy populations of Rough Fescue (*Festuca hallii*) and Rocky Mountain Fescue (*Festuca saximontana*)
- > Plains rough fescue grasslands are essentially only found in Canada with the best remaining examples in Alberta
- > Unbroken rangeland condition

LAND USE

- > The park will be managed for wildlife purposes and low-impact recreation use such as hiking
- > Hunting, overnight camping and off-highway vehicle use will not be permitted in the park

GOTTLLOB SCHMIDT

Gottlob Schmidt (Schmitty) was born in Marienfeld Bessarabia, Romania on September 23, 1924 to parents Gottlob and Pauline Schmidt. The family immigrated to Canada in 1927 and first settled just north of Hanna, Alberta. In 1933, the family relocated a short distance to the current location where Schmitty resides today. Schmitty and his brother Alex took over the farm from their father in 1945 and in 1958 Schmitty bought out his brother to become the sole operator/resident. Schmitty raised purebred Hereford cattle on his land until retiring from the cattle business in the late 1990s when he turned his attention to his passions of gardening and then raising birds, particularly pheasants and peacocks.



Over the years Schmitty has been involved with the Solan Community Club, Meadowlands Community Club, Hanna Curling Club and Hanna Elks. A popular and favourite event that Schmitty hosted for his neighbours and family was an annual corn feast that he put on for many years. Schmitty is known for his gentle nature and generous spirit, his deep love for the land and wildlife, and a keen sense of humour that remains as sharp today as ever. At 90 years old, Schmitty has taken up a second residence in Hanna, but he continues to spend most days at the homestead, on the land that he so dearly loves. It is this cherished native grassland property that Schmitty is donating to Alberta Parks so it can be preserved in perpetuity for the wildlife that dwell there and for future generations of Albertans to experience and enjoy.