



St Albert Trekkers Volkssport Club
YRE Walk # 2 – 10 km Art and History Walk
January 1 to December 31, Annually



Please Read These Notes: In the following instructions “RT” means “Right Turn” , “LT” means “Left Turn” and “MUT” means Multi-use Trail.

In the following instructions, **bold type will indicate the walk route** while *italicized type describes the point of interest along the route.*

The starting point for this walk is St Albert Inn.

St Albert was established in 1861 by Father Albert Lacombe, OMI and is named after his patron saint, St Albert the Great. Father Lacombe brought a number of families to settle and begin farming here. Together They built a log chapel that we will see later during the walk.

- 1. From the lobby of the St Albert Inn, go straight ahead to the service road. LT and cross Gate Ave at the traffic control lights. LT along Gate to Grandin Rd.**
- 2. RT to Green Lees Pl. LT and cross Grandin Rd at the pedestrian crossing lights and continue straight ahead along Grandville Ave to Grosvenor Blvd. RT and follow Grosvenor back to Grandin Rd.**
- 3. LT on Grandin to Sir Winston Churchill Ave (SWC). Cross SWC onto St Anne St.** *Across the street from the Courthouse on the corner of St Anne St and St Thomas St, note part of the City's Art in Public Places program. The falcon sculpture, “Threshold” is by artist Robert Spaith. A little further along to your left is City hall, St Albert Place. This building was designed by Métis architect Douglas Cardinal and houses some of the City Offices, the Arden Theater, the Museum, the Library and several Art Studios. Cardinal also designed the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, the Odysseum in Edmonton, Grand Prairie College and St Mary's Church in Red Deer. At the main entrance note the Sculpture, "Hide and Seek" by Barbara Paterson. Public washrooms are available in the building.*
- 4. immediately past St Albert Place, LT onto the paved MUT proceeding towards the trestle bridge (river on your right).** *The Trestle Railroad Bridge that dates back to 1907. The Grey Nuns donated the Canadian National Railway right-of-way through St Albert. The Grey Nuns came to St Albert in 1863 and opened the first hospital west of St. Boniface, Manitoba. A school followed the hospital in 1878.*
- 5. At the pedestrian suspension bridge (Children's Bridge), RT and cross the river. LT and take the path the angles upwards (as opposed to the wider trail nearest the river) keeping parking lot to your left.** *This pedestrian bridge was built in 1979 to commemorate the United Nations International Year of the Child. It was the second pedestrian bridge to be built in St Albert.*
- 6. At the top of the path, RT along the alley to Mission Ave (unsigned). Cross and LT following Mission to St Vital Ave.** *The grain elevators represent St Albert's agricultural beginnings. St Albert is the oldest successful non-fort agricultural community in Alberta. The red one was built in 1929 and the second one was built in 1930. Both now belong to the Musee Heritage Museum and are partially restored to working condition. The newly completed Train Station facing the track is a replica of the 1920's original one.*

7. RT along St Vital crossing Mill Dr and Mount Royal Dr along the way up to the top of a small hill. *The Mission hill area is where St Albert was first settled 1861. The Mission Hill buildings include the log chapel built by Father Lacombe in 1861 with help from the Cree First Nation and the Métis (small white log building nearest the street). This is the oldest building in Alberta but it is no longer on its original foundation. It is a Provincial Heritage Site and is open during the summer. (The oldest building in Alberta still on its original foundation is at Fort Victoria, on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River south of Smoky Lake.)*

- To the right is the Vital Grandin Center built in 1887. The brick St Albert Parish Church is right in front of you. *This church was built in 1900 and is the third church on this site. Father Lacombe, Bishop Grandin and Father Leduc have been laid to rest in the basement of this chapel. The three bells next to the church were cast in France and were gifts to the first bishop, Bishop Grandin. One bell arrived in 1884 while the other two arrived in 1887. A statue of Father Lacombe is at the entrance to the parking lot.*

8. RT on to the red shale Founders' Promenade that winds its way down and to the left of the Little White School. Continue down the path, past the tennis courts to Mission Ave. *The Founders Promenade was built in 1988 and commemorates St Albert's pioneer families. This path follows the old Memorial Drive (1929) that commemorated the people who served in the St Albert Mounted Rifles (formed during the Riel Rebellion of 1885) and those who lost their lives in World War I. The school was built in 1946 and is a St Albert Heritage Site. (NOTE: If the path is snow covered, continue to Madonna Dr and RT going downhill to Mission Ave. LT on Mission for one block to Maple Dr. RT to Madison Ave and LT back to Madonna. RT toward Perron St and continue with instruction 10).*

9. LT along Mission Ave to Madonna Dr. Cross and LT along Madonna to Madison Ave. RT on Madison to Maple Dr. RT on Maple to Mission. RT on Mission and proceed toward Perron St. *This area is the oldest residential area of St Albert. Number 10 Mission is Fleuri Perron's home built in 1901. The Juneau House, # 9 Mission at the corner of Mission and Madonna, was built in 1890. Today it is a Métis Museum.*

10. LT on Perron St. LT on first paved MUT before reaching the river and keep river on your right. Go under St Albert Road and then LT at the end of the chin link fence to Rivercrest Cres. LT to St Albert Rd and LT crossing over the river. LT toward log cabin. *Many of the logs in this building are the original ones from the NWMP Barracks dating back to 1888. Walk around to the front to read the plaque. The cabin is now part of the museum complex and is intended to be a future interpretive center of Red Willow Park.*

11. Return to the MUT keeping river on your right passing under St Albert Road back to Perron St. *The current bridge is the fourth bridge built on this site. The original bridge built in 1862 was the first bridge in Canada west of the Great Lakes. Those who helped build the original wooden bridge crossed for free but others had to pay a toll.*

12. LT along Perron St and proceed straight ahead to SWC. There are many points of interest along this 4-block stretch.

a) *On the corner of St Anne and Perron note the artistic bench, "Butt Hinge" by artist Garry Jones.*

b) *Across Perron, the Bruin Centre built in 2001 (Rik's Grill) replaces the old Bruin Inn. The Bruin Inn was built in 1929 after the St Albert Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1928. The Bruin Inn was one of the few places in Alberta that permitted men and women could drink together in the same establishment during the 1940's and 1950's.*

c) Across St Anne is the brick Profiles Gallery. This was the site of the Royal Hotel built in 1912. In 1921, the Banque d'Hochelaga built this Georgina style building using bricks from the Royal Hotel. This building has been a coffee shop, Municipal office, Bank of Montreal and in recent years, various retail stores.

d) Continuing along Perron, look across the street to the open space besides Draydon Insurance. This is Founders' Court with a statue of St Albert the Great as a youth by Al Henderson. The mural on the wall of the insurance building depicts the "Sisters of Charity" (Grey Nuns) by artist Lewis Lavoie.

e) As you cross St Michael Street, look to your right. The mural above the corner store is "Healthy Communities" by artist Bella Totino Busby.

f) At the corner of Perron and SWC observe the Perron Clock Park built in 1995. The clock tower is 71 feet high and is double walled, concrete blocks inside and clay brick outside. The space between the two walls is fitted with measuring devices that detect movement. Perron St is named for Fleuri Perron (1866 – 1931) a member of the first Town Council and owner of one of the first brick yards in Alberta. The mural by artist Tag Kim is titled "Spirit of St Albert".

13. At SWC, LT under St Albert Road to the first set of steps on the left. Go up the steps and into Balmoral Dr (unsigned). Follow to Bishop St, cross and RT to SWC. Cross SWC at the pedestrian lights and RT to Cunningham Rd and cross.

14. Stay on the right side of Cunningham to Sycamore Ave. RT on Sycamore to Salisbury Ave. Cross and LT on Salisbury. LT onto Sunset Blvd and follow to Hebert Rd. RT and cross Sunset at the traffic control lights and follow Hebert to St Albert Rd. Cross at the traffic control lights and RT making your way back to the St Albert Inn.

We hope you enjoyed your walk. Thank you for visiting our City.

DON'T FORGET TO STAMP YOUR BOOKS (Use Walk #2 Stamp)

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(Over for Map)